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THE TIMES

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24 1990

(30p)

Militant crews vote for all-out strike against settlement

Ambulance deal, but no 'pay formula'

By Tim Jones and Philip Webster

Militant ambulance crews are to go ahead with an all-out strike from Monday in spite of the settlement agreed after 20 hours of talks between health service and union negotiators yesterday.

Union leaders who claimed that they had won rises worth almost 20 per cent for their members still face a grass-roots revolt over their failure to achieve a pay bargaining mechanism for the future.

And suggestions that the deal had "driven a coach and horses" through government pay policy were dismissed in Whitehall, with Mr Duncan Nichol, the health service chief executive, saying it would add only 13 per cent to the wage bill over two years.

Although the protracted negotiations mean more money for the crews, the deal was immediately rejected in Liverpool, where members of the National Union of Public Employees voted to go ahead

with a strike from Monday. Mr Stewart Smith, a union branch chairman said: "We will not sell jobs and that is what acceptance of the offer would mean."

Ambulance union leaders also face revolts in London and Manchester, where crews are demanding the same "emergency service status" as fire fighters and policemen.

Throughout the six-month dispute, the unions had said there could be no settlement without a pay formula for the

future. But yesterday, the chief negotiator Mr Roger Poole admitted that it had been clear since November that the Government would not grant such a formula.

He said, however, that the financial deal was "simply staggering, driving a coach and horses through government pay policy", and that the talks had achieved a "firm framework" for future Whitehall Council negotiations.

For the first time, the council would negotiate ambulance workers' pay without being constrained by any announcement from the Secretary of State for Health before talks began, he said.

The value of the deal was the subject of wildly different interpretations last night. Mr Poole said it meant staff would receive 17.6 per cent with an extra 2 per cent available from October, pushing the final figure for a qualified ambulance worker to 19.6 per cent.

The Department of Health said that as the crews had not received a pay rise since April 1988, the settlement represented 16.9 per cent over three years, with the extra 2 per cent a "target increase" which could be awarded locally depending on improvements in efficiency.

Ministers accept the unions' figures for the award, but say that staging the increases means the cost amounts to 9 per cent in the first year and 4 per cent in the second.

They expressed relief that a dispute that caused government unpopularity appeared to be ending; and the Prime Minister was said to be satisfied by the outcome.

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, said that the deal had involved concessions by the Government. A good deal had been secured by dint of enormous sacrifice and effective action, he said.

But ministers were confident that the firm line taken by the Government, particularly its refusal to concede a pay linkage formula, would serve as a warning to other groups that they would have little to gain by striking.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Secretary of State for Health, said the settlement meant that the going rate for public sector pay rises sector was 8 per cent.

In spite of the militancy on Merseyside, London and other areas, union sources believed last night that the offer would be accepted in the ballot of 22,500 ambulance workers and controllers, if only because of the financial hardship which many of their members are suffering.

Union members were nevertheless unhappy that backdated lump sum payments, ranging from £615 for an ambulance worker to £915 for a leading ambulance worker, would not be consolidated into the pay agreement.

The deal means that a leading ambulance worker now earning £10,888 will receive £11,868 from this March, and £12,806 from October. For ambulance workers, the rates will increase from £7,340 to £8,001 and to £8,633 from October.

Fully-trained paramedical staff will receive an additional £500 per year from April 1, and partly-trained paramedics will receive additional payments ranging from £150 to £230 a year, depending on their skills.

For ambulance officers, lump sum payments will range from £1,025 to £1,385 with increases in basic salaries from £12,174 to £14,318 and from £16,462 to £19,362, depending on grade.



Show of defiance: Ambulance workers in Liverpool voting last night in favour of an all-out strike from 7am on Monday after rejecting the national pay offer. The decision, taken at a packed mass meeting in the Trades Union Congress centre in the city, means that army ambulances may be seen on Merseyside streets for the first time since the dispute began (David Cross writes).

Mr Stewart Smith, chairman of the

Merseyside branch of Naps, said after the almost unanimous vote: "We will not sell jobs - that is what acceptance of the offer would have meant. The men are fully prepared to stay out and we have strong public support for the action."

"Staff on Merseyside were already involved in industrial action before the national dispute started, over changes in the way the service in this area was to operate. Maybe that is why we are so

determined. We have already had a taste of what is to come for the service as a whole."

He added that the Merseyside men's main objection to the pay offer was that it did not involve a national pay formula. Mr Ray Clayton, the branch secretary, said: "If you look at the pay deal carefully, for one thing it does not offer 17 per cent: the increase actually adds up to 13 per cent and no more."

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Lloyds Bank card vote

More than 600,000 Lloyds Bank Access customers, a fifth of the total, have destroyed their credit cards in protest at the bank's decision to charge a £12 annual fee.

Full report, page 3

Markets down

London stockmarkets suffered from the steep Thursday fall in Japan and closed 32.5 points down at 2236.7 yesterday.

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Law on marital rape to be tested in court

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A man will appear before Leicester magistrates next week charged with the rape of his wife.

The prosecution on Wednesday breaks new ground in England and Wales: it will test the law on whether a man can be convicted of raping his wife when they are living apart but there is no legal order of separation.

Unlike in Scotland, rape in marriage is not an offence in England and Wales and under the law it is only possible for a man to be prosecuted for rape if the couple are legally separated. The prosecution co-

incides with moves for a change in the law.

The Law Commission announced last week that it intends to review marital rape and it is widely expected that the review will recommend bringing the law in line with Scotland.

Lord Mayfield, a Scottish judge, made legal history last year with a ruling, upheld on appeal, that a husband could be charged with raping his wife even though the couple were living together.

Previous cases in Scotland had involved separated couples.

Ailing retail chain to leave Glasgow

By Michael Tate, Deputy City Editor

The Glasgow-based retailer, A. Goldberg, which fought off a £32 million takeover bid from Blacks Leisure last year, is to leave Scotland and set up its headquarters in London, as part of an attempt to return the group to profits.

At the same time, Goldberg will be cut back to a smaller higher-margin fashion chain, closing up to half its stores and laying off a large part of its workforce. Around 100 jobs could be involved and staff were being told yesterday.

The drastic overhaul is the first, crucial response by the new chief executive, Mr Adrian Atkinson, to the crisis that left Goldberg with a £4.5 million loss in the half-year to last September. Goldberg, which owns the Wrygges, Schuh and Ted Baker chains, has instigated a "strategic review" of all its operations.

On the stock market yesterday Goldberg shares were marked 9p lower to 78p. The Blacks share exchange bid price valued them at 192p.

A statement from the company yesterday said that "as a result of [the review] the board has decided to substantially contract its trading activities and refocus its fashion businesses".

It continued: "As part of the cutback the company will be closing a number of loss-making stores, and reducing staff numbers substantially. It is thought that at least half the 32 Wrygges stores and 20 Goldberg stores will shut."

Goldberg, which set out on ambitious plans to transform itself into a national fashion retail chain in 1985, has been caught by the latest downturn in high street spending.

Losses of about £9 million, including extraordinary items, are likely for the whole year.

Rothschild offer to buy Three Graces

By Sarah Jane Checkland, Art Market Correspondent



Mr Jacob Rothschild: Offer to buy statue in lieu of taxes.

A bold proposal is being discussed to save Canova's "The Three Graces" from being exported to the Getty Museum, California.

It would involve Mr Jacob Rothschild, the financier and chairman of the National Gallery, buying the £7.6 million work then offering it to the nation in lieu of the same amount of tax payable on an inheritance from a cousin.

"I feel strongly about the Three Graces leaving England and have tried to come up with some initiatives that will be helpful in finding a

solution." Mr Rothschild said yesterday.

The marble sculpture of three dancing damsels was commissioned by the sixth Duke of Bedford in 1817. It remained at Woburn Abbey, Bedfordshire, until 1985 when it was transported to an exhibition in Washington.

It transpired that the Tavistock family sold it prior to the exhibition to an anonymous company based in the Cayman Islands. Only yesterday did the company disclose its name, Fine Art Investment and Display Lim-

ited, whose shareholders remain a mystery.

Having negotiated to sell the work to the Getty, the company applied for an export licence last year. The Victoria and Albert Museum launched an appeal last month, but with a running total of only £350,000, hopes of meeting the March 12 deadline were fading.

Mrs Heather Wilson, tax specialist at the Museums and Galleries Commission, said the owners could sell the Graces to the executors of the Rothschild cousin's estate.

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Ambulance dispute peace settlement

Government is accused of 'economics of madhouse'

By Tim Jones
Employment Affairs
Correspondent

Union leaders involved in the six-month ambulance dispute, who estimate the cost of providing police and Army cover at more than £25 million, accused the Government yesterday of practising "the economics of the madhouse" in withstanding demands for a "decent" pay rise.

Figures based on parliamentary answers show that in five police areas alone, the operation cost more than £14 million, with half of that being used to finance a daily cost in London of £86,000. According to the Home Office, the dispute would have accounted for 1,100,000 police hours by the middle of this month.

The cost of having more than 200 Army ambulances on duty in 20 health service areas was estimated to be at least £2.5 million.

The unions said that in order to meet their claim in full, the Government would have had to spend an extra £10 million, representing the difference between the original 6.5 per cent offer and the 11.4 per cent over 12 months that they had sought. A spokes-

Public generosity has inspired London ambulance men to continue to fight for a pay formula.

At the Waterloo ambulance station, south London, ambulance workers have taken home up to £500 a month from public donations alone. On average they have had an income of £400 a month each with lock-out pay on top.

"To give in now would be letting our public down," said Mr Stuart Edwards, a qualified ambulance man.

Mr Edwards, aged 21, who is married with a one-year-old son, Anthony, is on a salary of £10,093. The new deal would give him a £680 lump sum, a

man said: "It has exceeded this sum in police costs in five areas alone. This is the economics of the madhouse."

The unions said the final bill for the dispute would be much higher once health authorities disclosed the full cost of using private ambulance companies, although they did not take into account the saving in wages by authorities.

In spite of the settlement, some ambulance officers will feel the financial effects of the strike for months. Some crew

salary increase to £11,001 from March 1 and to £11,870 from October 1.

"I will not vote to accept this offer because I do not want to go through this again and I do not want to put the British public through it again."

Mr Ansbrey Turner, aged 32, a control assistant, said that during the dispute he has received £400 in donations a month plus £150 lock-out pay.

The revised settlement would give him a rise from £6,702 to £7,305 with a £600 lump sum and a second increase still to be agreed. He said he was "in two minds" about accepting it.

members in London are estimated to have lost up to £3,000 in wages.

The settlement will almost certainly get the 22,500 officers and crew back to work, but any resentment may be fanned as government schemes to contract out non-emergency services gather pace. Most such work could be privatized, with about a third of operations remaining under government control as part of the 1999 service.

Elite crews of trained para-

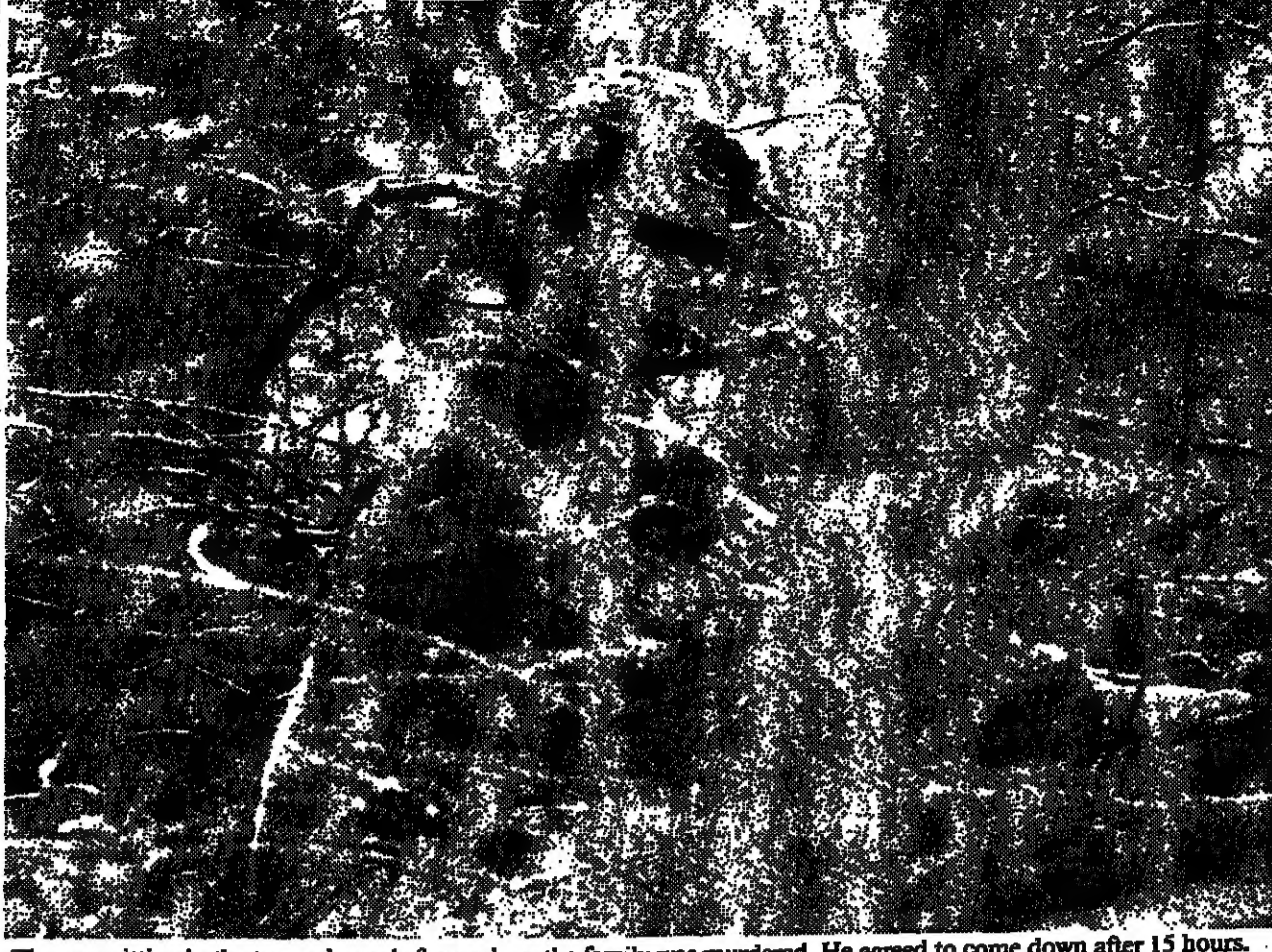
medics will be created, earning substantially more than those who drive non-emergency patients to hospitals. It is likely also that local health service managers will be able to negotiate at a local level, varying settlements to take account of recruitment and retention problems.

The Government's refusal to accede to the crews' demand for independent arbitration is another cause for frustration because they were convinced their case was just. The dispute, called in the first week of September, intensified when talks between the union leaders and Mr Duncan Nichol, chief executive of the National Health Service, broke down.

London was the focus of an increasingly bitter stalemate when crews refused to work normally and police were drafted in to deal with emergency calls.

The dispute spread when talks at the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service broke down. It took on a new political and emotional momentum on November 8 when the Army was brought in to run emergency services in November.

Tree man questioned on deaths



The man sitting in the tree only yards from where the family was murdered. He agreed to come down after 15 hours. Paul, aged 16. They were found dead in their home in Upper Ridings Road, Beaconsfield.

The man agreed to come down from the tree at 4.05am yesterday after 15 hours of negotiations with police.

NEWS ROUNDUP

Teachers to vote on one-day strike

Delegates representing 118,000 teachers will be asked today to approve the first national strike to hit state schools in England and Wales for more than three years (Douglas Broom writes).

The second largest teachers' union has called a special conference at Wembley Arena, London, to approve a ballot on industrial action in protest at the Government's decision to pay this year's pay rise in two stages. The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers says the decision to hold back 1 per cent of the 8.3 per cent rise until next January amounts to imposing a pay cut.

Although the ballot will only ask teachers to vote on the principle of taking some form of "protest action", the union's executive is drawing up plans for a one-day strike, probably before Easter.

Mr Nigel de Gruchy, the general secretary designate, said: "Moderation has left us with an effective pay cut at a time of rising mortgage rates and soaring inflation."

Crash kills test pilot

One of Britain's most experienced test pilots was killed when the training aircraft he was flying crashed into the sea off Scotland (Harvey Elliott writes). Mr Allan Deacon, aged 57, was chief test pilot for Shorts of Belfast and was on a routine test flight in a Tucano trainer of the type used by the RAF to train new pilots. A board of inquiry has been set up into the accident which happened on Thursday afternoon. So far there are no clues as to the cause. Mr Deacon joined Shorts in 1977 and was made chief test pilot in 1984. He had flown about 90 different types of aircraft in his career.

Vicar goes to tribunal

In what is thought to be a unique case, a Church of England vicar will take his bishop before an industrial tribunal on Tuesday to claim unfair dismissal (Alan Hamilton writes). The Rev Clifford Fane, vicar of St John's Top O' Th' Moss at Brightmet, Bolton, Greater Manchester, is to challenge the Rt Rev Stanley Booth-Clibborn, Bishop of Manchester. The issue is complicated by the fact that Mr Fane's incumbency is a Crown living.

Head is handed over

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland yesterday handed over the 130-year-old mummified head of an aboriginal warrior to the Australian Embassy in Dublin. The move followed the personal intervention of the Australian Ambassador to Ireland, Mr Brian Burke. The college, which was bequeathed the head, had earlier rejected appeals for its return to Australia. However, the college council met on Monday and agreed to give it up.

MP's court apology

Mr Nicholas Winterton, Conservative MP for Macclesfield, apologized to the Right Rev James Kalluma, Anglican Bishop of Namibia, and the Right Rev Kleopas Dumeni, Lutheran Bishop of Namibia, in the High Court yesterday over libellous references to rumours that they had approved a murder list. The issue was raised in a letter published in a Macclesfield newspaper in 1985. Mr Julian Malins, for the bishops, said they had never condoned violence.

Wrong body returned

An inquest at Middlesbrough was adjourned yesterday when it was disclosed that the body of a badly burnt Bolivian woman had been sent to Britain instead of the body of Angela Whitehead, aged 23, of Middlesbrough. Miss Whitehead was one of two Britons among the 23 passengers and crew killed when a Bolivian Air Force Hercules crashed in jungle near Guayaramerin on a flight from the Bolivian capital of La Paz on December 21.

Peers beat America's top tycoons at bridge

By Albert Dormer, Bridge Correspondent

Parliament bridge experts retained their supremacy by beating Corporate America yesterday by 37 international match points to 21, avenging a defeat by the House of Commons earlier in the day.

Parliament has played bridge matches against a number of foreign legislatures, winning most of them, but this was their first encounter with a team of top businessmen.

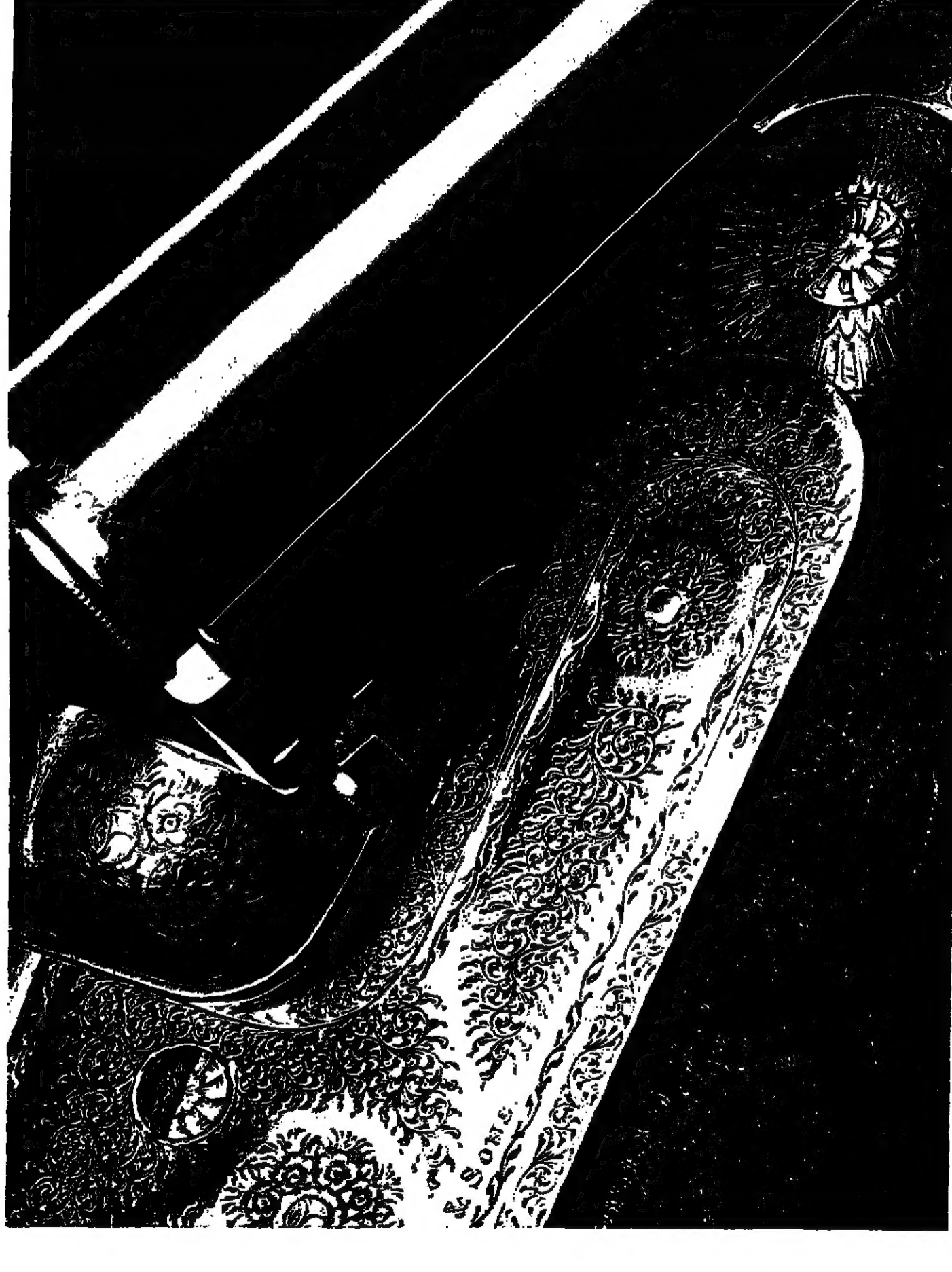
The match, for charity, was played amid the pre-Raphaelite splendour of the London home of Mr Malcolm Forbes, the magazine proprietor and a member of the winning team.

When you are president of CBS, like Mr Laurence Tisch, a big player on Wall Street, like Mr "Ace" Greenberg and Mr Jimmy Cayne, or a legendary investor who turned

\$10,000 into America's second largest personal fortune, like Mr Warren Buffett, you prefer not to go home a loser. Nonetheless, Lord Lever said he had never met such courteous opponents.

The tycoons, whose team manager was Miss Kathie Wei, have beaten the US Congress. The Parliament team comprised the Duke of Atholl, team captain, Lord Smith, Lord Gisborough and Lord Lever.

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A man who was found guilty of murdering a woman in 1984 is appealing his conviction.

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Appeal court frees man who 'confessed' to disbanded squad

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

A man jailed for 15 years after members of the West Midlands police's disbanded serious crimes squad allegedly fabricated a confession by him was cleared and freed by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

The judges, led by Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, in quashing the conviction of Mr Hassan Khan, aged 35, a father of two, who the police claimed had confessed freely to taking part in an armed robbery, said it was "unsafe and unsatisfactory".

The decision came after the Court of Appeal released last July a man jailed for five years on evidence supplied by the squad. Seven other appeals lodged by people jailed after being investigated by the squad are yet to be heard.

Five officers involved in the Khan case are to be interviewed by the West Yorkshire police who, under the supervision of the Police Complaints Authority, are investigating about 100 allegations of malpractice and criminal acts involving the unit, which was disbanded last year.

Mr Khan, of Caernarvon, Gwynedd, refused to comment after being released from the court cells, other than to declare: "I am innocent".

His brother, Kenny, aged 36, who claimed himself to be a runner outside the Law Courts in central London on Thursday in protest about the case, predicted that Mr Khan would seek early compensation from the police.

However, he said "no

money in the world" could make amends for false imprisonment. Mr Khan, who claimed his brother had "lost everything", said: "He just wants to get home to his wife, Rita, and his sons, Yassa, who is seven, and Ali, aged two. He has never seen the baby outside prison walls".

Lord Lane, sitting with Mr Justice Rose and Mr Justice Pill, said: "Having heard close and careful analysis of the police evidence, we are, to say the least, very doubtful whether the evidence of the appellant's admission is reliable."

Mr Khan was convicted at Birmingham Crown Court on December 2 1988 on a 10-2 verdict for a £10,000 armed robbery in the city. Two people who pursued the robber were shot and wounded.

Lord Lane said there were several material and odd features about the case, the most

important being Mr Khan's apparent anxiety to confess while being driven by the police from Caernarvon to Birmingham for questioning.

Mr Khan had contacted a solicitor before going with the police. In spite of this and being warned by officers that formal statements should be made only in police stations, he had seemingly admitted his guilt during the journey.

The notes, Lord Lane said, had allegedly been taken by a detective sergeant using light from a torch hung from his neck. However, remarkably, they showed no signs of the pen being jolted and were no different to other notes written by him in the comparative comfort of the police station.

Lord Lane also voiced concern at a second statement allegedly made by Mr Khan at Chelmsley Wood police station, Birmingham. The caution on the statement's first page bore his signature but none of the succeeding pages did. Mr Khan contended that the latter were fabricated.

"There seems to be no reason why he should not have signed them if, as was said, he was freely admitting his guilt," the judge said.

Lord Lane said the court was also troubled by evidence of a car trip to Edgbaston reservoir, near Mr Khan's former home, where a robbery kit had been recovered by the police. It had been suggested that the journey enabled the police to conduct a further conversation with Mr Khan.

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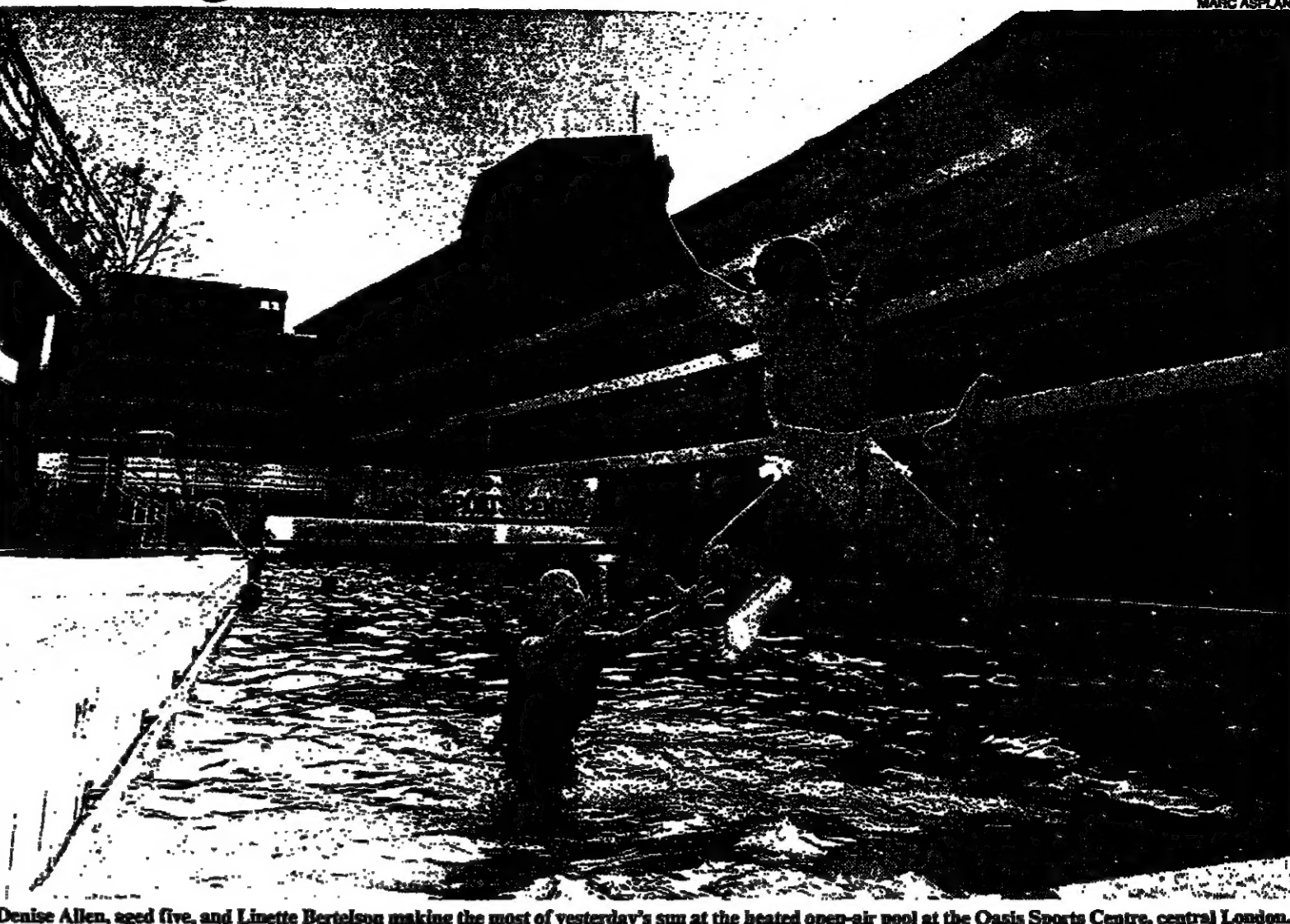
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Scots gale alert as London basks in sun



Denise Allen, aged five, and Linette Bertelson making the most of yesterday's sun at the heated open-air pool at the Oasis Sports Centre, central London.

Eastern England basked in warm sunshine again yesterday, but northern Scotland was warned last night to expect a return of gale force winds this evening (Robin Young writes).

While Scotland was mild and cloudy with rain yesterday, London had its warmest February day since 1961. The temperature reached 18.2C

(nearly 65F), compared with the previous best of 18.5C (65.3F) achieved on Valentine's Day 1961.

Temperatures of 18C (over 64F) were recorded at several places in the South-east and in East Anglia, while as far north as Yorkshire the maximum temperatures were over 16C (61F). The fourth mild winter in

succession has made it illic time in February in London. The first flocks of *Syringia oblata* are open in Chelsea Physic Garden. They would not normally be expected until April.

The British Trust for Ornithology already has records of blackbirds with eggs at Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, a song thrush with eggs in Lancashire,

and robins with eggs in Kent. The conditions do not suit everyone. Yesterday, roast chestnut sellers in London were doing little business. "I should be selling ice cream," one said.

Things could be looking up for him. It will be colder and more unsettled today and temperatures will fall further tomorrow.

'Kidneys for sale' case

Surgeon admits need for safeguards

By John Young

A leading transplant surgeon said yesterday that there were deficiencies in a system that allegedly allowed kidneys to be taken from four Turkish donors in return for payment.

Mr Michael Bewick told a disciplinary committee of the General Medical Council that there was a need in future for fail-safe mechanisms "which we have never had in the past".

However, Mr Bewick disagreed with the earlier admission by his colleague, Mr Michael Joyce, a urologist, that all the transplant operations they had performed together had been unethical. Mr Joyce was "hypercritical" of himself, he said. In respect of the four Turks, the system had been deficient, but to say that the majority of transplant operations were unethical was untrue.

Mr Bewick was giving evidence at the end of the fifth week of a hearing into charges of serious professional misconduct against himself, Mr Joyce and Dr Raymond Crockett, a Harley Street kidney specialist. All three deny the charges of misconduct.

Cross-questioned by Mr Roger Henderson, QC, for the council, Mr Bewick said he

accepted that the procedures should have revealed whether the donors were fully informed, had given their willing consent and that no money had changed hands.

It was standard clinical practice for donors to be intensively questioned about their background and physical and mental state. Although he accepted it was his responsibility to ensure that every patient gave his willing consent to an operation, it had never occurred to him that it

was his personal duty to obtain the signature.

If Mr Ahmet Koch, the Turk who claimed that his kidney was removed without his prior knowledge or consent was telling the truth, the system was clearly defective.

Mr Bewick said that in all four cases he had relied upon Dr Crockett to provide him with willing, unpaid and fully-informed donors.

"This was because you had a full understanding with Dr Crockett about his responsibility in these fields," Mr Henderson asked. "Yes," Mr

Henderson described Mr Bewick as a man who undertook a phenomenal amount of work. He suggested he had not taken the time to consider the ethics involved.

Mr Henderson asked Mr Bewick whether, at any time before December 1988, he and Dr Crockett had discussed whether payment to donors was consistent with ethical conduct. He replied that he thought it had been suggested.

"Suggested by Dr Crockett?" "I can't be sure."

Mr Bewick said he would not use his heavy workload as an excuse for not having interviewed the donor more fully. He had relied on a General Practitioner to do that, but he accepted his responsibility.

Mr Bewick said he had simply taken it on trust from Dr Crockett that there had been no purchase of kidneys. He had not questioned him directly.

Mr Bewick conceded that in retrospect they should have sought an independent opinion on whether payment had been made. He himself had no idea until January 1989, when he read newspaper reports, that donors were being paid.

He agreed that it would have been practicable to ask Mr Ferhat Usta if he had

advertised in Turkey, if he had asked to be paid and if he knew the person to whom his kidney would be given.

"But all of that would have been done through an intermediary," Mr Bewick said. "How my question was interpreted to the patient and what his reply was, and how it was translated to me might have been different."

Earlier, Mr Bewick had admitted transplanting a National Health Service kidney into a private patient, a Greek woman, at the Wellington Hospital in St John's Wood, north-west London. But he denied that he had deliberately misled Dr David Taub, consultant nephrologist at Dulwich Hospital, Renal Unit and other colleagues.

"There was no reason for me to mislead them," he said. "I just felt there was a sick woman who needed a kidney."

He had been called early one morning to remove the kidneys from a patient who had just died and he had them in his car. While driving up Park Lane to the Wellington Hospital he had made a spur of the moment decision to give one of the kidneys to the patient whom he was greatly concerned about.

The hearing continues on Monday.

The hearing continues on Monday.

600,000 destroy credit cards in protest

By Neil Bennett

More than 600,000 Lloyds Bank Access customers, a fifth of the total, have destroyed their credit cards in protest at the bank's decision to charge a £12 annual fee.

The company revealed this loss of customers, double the industry's estimates, as it reported losses of £715 million for 1989 after a £1.2 billion provision against its credit-card division slumped by two-thirds to £14 million.

However, Sir Jeremy Morse, the chairman, said he did not regret the decision to charge the fee, which was linked to a 0.3 per cent reduction in the monthly interest charge. "When you ask

people to pay for something they have been getting for free, they are going to complain."

Mr David Pirrie, a director of retail banking, said the bank was happy with the loss of accounts, which was in line with expectations. "We have done what we wanted to do," he said. "We have repositioned the card as a sensible borrowing instrument."

An estimated 250,000 of the returned Access cards belonged to unsecured accounts, while 80 per cent came from people who did not pay interest and whose accounts were unprofitable. More than three-quarters had no other relationship with Lloyds.

The credit card business fell into losses late last year, as it was "squeezed" by the high interest rates. Mr Pirrie said the changes were now bringing the business back in profit.

The bank said its number of plastic card holders had remained "broadly the same" at four million. Up to 100,000 people had applied for the Access card, while others had taken up Lloyds' new Visa payment card, which now has 1.76 million holders.

Other credit card issuers have been seeing a rush of new customers from Lloyds' Access. Last month, Barclaycard, the country's largest card issuer with nine million customers, found that 60 per cent of its applicants had accounts

at Lloyds, compared to 27 per cent normally.

Sir Gordon Borrie, the Director-General of the Office of Fair Trading, has bitterly opposed the way Lloyds introduced its fee, which became payable on February 1.

£715 million loss, page 17

PORTFOLIO

There were no valid claims for the £2,000 prize in The Times Portfolio Platinum game yesterday, so the money will be carried forward to be competed for next week, increasing Monday's jackpot in the daily competition to £4,000.

Kasparov revenge on Spassky

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Gary Kasparov, the world chess champion, settled an old debt against Boris Spassky, the former champion, in the fourth round of the category 16 grandmaster tournament in Linares, Spain.

Until the game, Spassky had been one of the few grandmasters with a plus score against Kasparov. Kasparov, playing white, gained revenge in brilliant style.

The moves were:
White Black
1 e4 Nf6 10 e5 d5
2 d4 d5 11 f3 Bg7
3 Nc3 Bb4 12 Qd2 Qc7
4 Qc2 Qc5 13 Qd1 Ng6
5 e2d5 exd5 14 Qd4 Ne4
6 Bg5 Nf6 15 Qc5 Bc6
7 Bb4 Qc5 16 Qd4 Qb6
8 Qc5 Nf6 17 Qc3 Bf8
9 e3 Qc5 18 Qd4 Qc7
10 Bg3 Ne4 19 Qd2 Qc5
11 Nf3 Qc5 20 Kf2 Qc6
12 Bb5 Nc3 21 B4 Qd4
13 Bxc4 bxc4 22 Bxc4
14 e3 Qc5 23 Qd4
15 Bb5 Nc4

Mackay praises entries in Young Professionals' Award

£1,000 prize for schoolboy

A schoolboy aged 17 is the winner out of more than 100 entrants for this year's The Times Young Professionals' Award, announced yesterday.

Joseph Leake, of Southend, Essex, who is studying English, History and Biology at A level and hopes to read psychology at university, wins £1,000 and a Pison MC 400 mobile computer for his essay on "The Law is Right to Value Reputation More than Life or Limb".

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, who was one of the judges and presented the prizes, praised the standard of entries.

The competition was not only an opportunity for young lawyers and journalists, but for "all young writers".

The second prize went to Matthew Burgess, of Brighton; and the third to Nigel Poole, of Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester.



Joseph Leake, winner of The Times Young Professionals' Award, receiving his prize from Lord Mackay.

Wife calls Sanderson a 'loose woman'

Tessa Sanderson the javelin champion was a loose woman without morals who would sleep with anyone, the wife of her lover claimed in the High Court yesterday.

Mrs Jewel Evans, the wife of Mr Derrick Evans, a fitness instructor, has accused Miss Sanderson of stealing her husband. She said yesterday she wanted to show the "other side of Tessa Sanderson's personality". "Morals," she had none... she was callous and not as she made out to be. Mrs Evans, aged 36, was

giving evidence on the fifth day of Miss Sanderson's libel action over articles in the *Sunday Mirror* and *The People* last March that she "callously and cynically" stole her husband.

Miss Sanderson's counsel, Mr Richard Hartley, QC, said Mrs Evans had called the Olympic and Commonwealth champion "slack". "That is Jamaican slang for a person who will sleep with anyone. Is that how you meant it?"

"That is exactly how I meant it," said Mrs Evans.

Mr George Carman, QC, counsel for Mirror Group Newspapers, asked her what she had wanted to talk about on the occasions she had tried to contact Miss Sanderson.

She replied: "I wanted to find out what sort of woman she was, if my husband had conned her or if she wanted him. I was hoping she had been gullible and taken in by him."

She described her husband as a "charmer" who could "convince anyone of anything". Mr Carman asked Steven

Warr, a journalist who interviewed Mrs Evans, of South Dene, Mill Hill, north-west London, about her attitude.

"She was very annoyed and very bitter, there was a certain amount of revenge in it."

At the start Mrs Evans wanted "loads of money" but by the end money was no longer an issue.

Mirror Group Newspapers, Mr Warr and Sandra White, another journalist, all deny libel.

The hearing continues on Monday.

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Women stage hunger strike to plead case of the 'Armagh Four'

By Edward Gorman
Irish Affairs Correspondent

Two women are on a week-long hunger strike in Lisburn, Co Antrim, in an attempt to highlight what they believe are the wrongful murder convictions of four members of the Ulster Defence Regiment in 1986.

Mrs Eileen Wright and Mrs Lynn Channon, who are refusing food until Monday, are spending their days in a caravan parked in the centre of the town. They are collecting signatures for a petition to the Northern Ireland Office, calling for the case to be reopened.

The so-called 'Armagh Four' were jailed for the murder of Mr Adrian Carroll, a member of a well known rep-

ublican family in Armagh, who was shot dead near his home in Abbey Street in the town in November 1983. Responsibility for the killing was claimed by the Protestant Action Force, a cover name for the 'loyalist' Ulster Volunteer Force.

In spite of the controversial image of the UDR and recent evidence of some of its members' links with Protestant paramilitary groups, the convicted men are attracting growing support from politicians on both sides of the community in Ulster, prominent figures in the church, and Mr Robert Kee, the journalist and historian.

The four, James Hagan, Noel Bell, Winston Allen and Neil Latimer, who

are being held in Maghaberry Prison in North Armagh, were alleged by the prosecution to have planned the murder of Mr Carroll and to have carried it out during a routine daytime UDR patrol.

Latimer was alleged to have changed into civilian clothes after the patrol had set off, to have shot Carroll outside his home at about lunchtime, and then to have been picked up by the patrol before changing back into uniform and resuming duty.

Yesterday, Mrs Margaret Bell, mother of Noel Bell, said a dossier compiled over the last four months, which includes new evidence and outlines the case for a re-trial, would be handed to Mr Peter Brooke, Secretary of State for

Northern Ireland, next month. The dossier was compiled after comments by Mr Brooke last October during a visit to Banbridge, Co Down, when he said he was prepared to refer the soldiers' case back to the courts if "new evidence, new factors" were made available to him.

The essence of the families' case is that a woman, referred to at the trial as "Witness A", who told a local priest that she had seen Latimer being helped into the back of a Land Rover near the scene of the murder, had since retracted her evidence. She claims she was "tricked" by detectives who told her the men had implicated themselves and admitted the killing.

The families say her court evidence

was contradictory and inconsistent and did not constitute a reliable basis for the conviction. They believe an interview the woman gave to Irish television last year confirmed their case and ought to be considered at a future hearing.

They also believe that alleged admissions by the men contained concocted evidence and were made under severe pressure after alleged threats and ill-treatment.

The families say none of the men could have known in advance that their duties would take them near the Carroll home, and they believe that two defence witnesses, whose evidence contradicted the Crown version, were not given sufficient consideration. Mr Jim Nichol-

son, the Ulster Unionist MEP who has championed the cause of the 'Armagh four', believes they were the victims of the pressure placed on the authorities at the time.

The authorities had had to be seen to be clamping down on the excesses of members of the UDR after the shooting of a Roman Catholic youth by members of the regiment in 1983.

Mr Nicholson said he had no doubt that the soldiers were innocent.

"It was a trial of expediency, one designed to bring disrepute on the UDR, and they never had a chance from day one," he said in Brussels yesterday. "I certainly feel that their case should be reopened and looked at seriously."

Shortage of police sergeants presages a crisis in the ranks

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

Britain's police forces are facing a growing shortage of sergeants because officers are failing national examinations or refusing to seek promotion and face financial penalties.

Some forces are concerned that they might soon have to advertise to draw officers from other forces.

Sergeants are the most junior supervising rank in the police service, but they are vital in the training and control of constables on the beat and have considerable responsibility under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act.

In the 1990s forces will face growing competition from industry and commerce to attract recruits from the shrinking number of school-leavers. The police will also lose many older officers who joined the service 30 years ago when pay and conditions were improved in response to a Royal Commission.

The problems coincide with a new report, published by *The Times* last week, which disclosed that police may soon be struggling to find enough capable officers to lead the service into the next decade.

The report, originally published in *Police Review*, disclosed that the pass rate for the October sergeants' examinations was 9.9 per cent. In 1988, the pass figure was 17.7 per cent, but in previous years the pass rate had fallen as low as 8 per cent and 6.9 per cent.

The report also revealed that the number of officers sitting the examination had dropped by about 3,000 in recent years.

The examinations are based largely on a knowledge of criminal law. Promotion to sergeant also requires candidates to pass an interview by a board of senior officers.

According to the report, the dearth of qualified sergeants has been caused not only by officers failing the examination, but by others who passed and then did not apply for the interview. These officers preferred to remain constables and receive an allowance for passing the examination.

Officers in the South-east were also unhappy at the prospect of promotion because it could entail moving house, while others wanted to avoid the stress of a high-ranking job and the loss of overtime pay.

● The sergeant's promotion examination lasts for a day and is split into sections covering traffic, criminal law and general police duties. The questions present candidates with a fictitious scenario and they are tested on how the law might be applied in the circumstances.

One such question last year, for example, described the case of "Waterhouse" on his way to a football match with a full flask of coffee. He is stopped at a turnstile and searched. The candidates are asked whether possession of the flask amounts to an offence of possessing an article capable of causing injury under new legislation on sports grounds.

The second part of the question details how drunken fans get into the ground, the way alcohol is sold and how trouble ensues. The candidate

is asked what powers under the new legislation the police could have used to prevent trouble.

In the case of "Holmes", the candidate is faced with a case where a man is arrested after a brawl in a street and then assaults the policeman.

The candidate is asked a series of questions on the powers of arrest, mistakes made by the constable in carrying out the arrest and how police might enforce a failure by Holmes to keep to his bail conditions.

● A police authority that needed extra officers but could not afford to pay them has been saved by an unexpected windfall.

South Yorkshire will now get the 20 extra officers approved by the Home Office last November. An unexpected £2 million saving on its annual budget of about £50 million means the authority can now afford the annual £154,000 wage bill for the recruits.

Sir Jack Layden, chairman of the authority, says it is still facing serious cash problems. Although next year's budget of £50.1 million is 14 per cent higher than this year, spending will remain at a standstill.

The authority is planning to cut overtime by 10 per cent, although an extra £280,000 will be spent on building maintenance, vehicle replacement and training.

South Yorkshire must also find an extra £500,000 to top up its operational emergency fund, which was used to meet part of the cost of the Hillsborough disaster inquiry.

Rent package brings teachers to London

By Douglas Broom
Education Reporter

A West Country teacher who moved to the East End of London after being offered a Docklands flat at low rent said yesterday that he had no regrets and loved working in the inner city.

Mr Simon Couch said he believed that extending the cheap housing scheme would bring in many more teachers who, like himself, were committed to working in multi-cultural urban schools.

The Department of the Environment is considering a plan from the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) to make further flats available to teachers.

Tower Hamlets, where Mr Couch teaches, has 180 teaching vacancies, and 300 children have been unable to start school this academic year because of the inner-city teacher-shortage crisis.

Mr Couch, his teacher partner, Miss Tracey Searle, and their four-year-old son, Timothy, moved from Plymouth to a £148,000 two-bedroom flat at Benson Quay, Shadwell Basin, Wapping, in August. The LDDC offered it at a weekly rent of £80 as part of its multi-million pound scheme to repair relations with local people by investing in facilities.

The couple, both aged 27, have been teaching at the Cyril Jackson Primary School in Tower Hamlets since September, and Timothy has been given a place in its nursery.

Sixty per cent of the school's pupils are Bangladeshi and it also has many from Chinese and Vietnamese families.

Mr Couch and Miss Searle qualified last summer at the College of St Mark and St John, Plymouth, which specializes in training teachers for inner-city classrooms.

Mr Couch said: "We are very happy. The flat is very good and we both enjoy teaching here. We would certainly not have been able to afford to



Mr Simon Couch and Miss Tracey Searle in London's Docklands as part of a scheme to fill inner-city teaching vacancies.

move here without the housing scheme. I have no regrets at all about coming here. It is a good school, I like the children and I get very good support from my colleagues."

One of his latest projects was a school trip to the Gorsefield field study centre in Essex to show inner-city children the countryside.

Mr Peter Sawyer, the school's headmaster, said:

"We were in a difficult position last September because the school was expanded and we had to find three extra teachers. Simon and Tracey were part of the solution, and I am very pleased with them. They are already showing an interest in responsibilities over their own classrooms."

If the DoE approves, the scheme that brought Mr Couch and Miss Searle to

London will be repeated this summer. The 38 flats offered to teachers last year were heavily over-subscribed.

In addition, the SLD-run London Borough of Tower Hamlets, which will take over schools in its area from the Inner London Education Authority on April 1, is planning one of the most generous benefits packages in Britain.

New teachers will be offered

a relocation grant of up to £5,000, a 260-a-week lodging allowance for those selling property, and a four-year mortgage subsidy of £60 a month. The council will also help teachers to buy a home in return for a share in the equity.

Child care vouchers, workplace nurseries and a one-term sabbatical after five years' service are being offered to all Tower Hamlets teachers.

Cairngorm plan leads to outcry

By Kerry Gill

The Scottish Wildlife Trust yesterday attacked proposals to extend skiing facilities into the Lurcher's Gully area of the Cairngorms in the Scottish Highlands.

In a letter to Mr Malcolm Rifkind, the Secretary of State for Scotland, the trust objects that the plan would destroy a "priceless national asset".

Fifteen environmental and recreational organizations have mounted a campaign against the plan. However, the Highland Regional Council supports it. Mr Rifkind is considering the issue.

Environmentalists say the area is a vital part of the natural heritage of the Highlands and should be left unspoiled. It falls within the Cairngorms National Scenic Area, the Glenmore Forest Park and a site of special scientific interest.

Nine years ago, the Scottish Office rejected similar proposals, explicitly ruling out access by road.

Mr David Hughes Hallert, chief executive of the Scottish Wildlife Trust, said: "The case against westward expansion in the northern corries of the Cairngorms has been well made over a long period."

Another campaigner, Mr Magnus Magnusson, the author and broadcaster, said: "The time has come to start taking proper care of our dwindling natural heritage."

Interested parties have until next Friday to comment on the proposal.

Disposable craft to aid troop links

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

A proposal to launch hundreds of disposable satellites, each no bigger than a telephone, around Earth as a means of troop communication is being studied by the Ministry of Defence.

The proposal, which it is claimed could be deployed at a fraction of the cost of present space systems, came as the European Space Agency attempted to identify the fault which led to the destruction of an Ariane rocket and two Japanese satellites valued at \$200 million. The midjet

satellite system, which would relay messages back to Britain, could be tested within two years, paving the way for low-cost space projects offering secure communications to organizations such as the Ministry and media groups.

Dr Chris Elliott, of Smith Associates, the scientific consultancy, of Guildford, Surrey, which has been studying the scheme with ministry funding, said that the lightweight satellite payload could be launched at a fraction of the cost of present systems. Troops in

remote areas such as parts of Norway often need to scale hills before they can relay messages back to Britain via satellites such as SkyNet. In some areas, existing satellites orbit so infrequently, if at all, that battalions can be out of touch for several hours.

Carpeting space with several arrays of small satellites up to 400 kilometres high at a variety of orbit angles may provide a solution. The small size would make them difficult to destroy.

The proposed craft, made from carbon fibre-reinforced plastics, would each contain five or more antennae. The multi-directional antennae meant the tiny craft could be launched by a low-cost, proven launch vehicle such as Scout, rather like marker buoys on the ocean.

It is expected that spring-loaded cylinders, housing about 10 of the midjet craft, would be launched 100 at a time on three missions.

Dr Elliott said the project's simplicity meant the craft could be built without the need for traditional space engineering expertise.

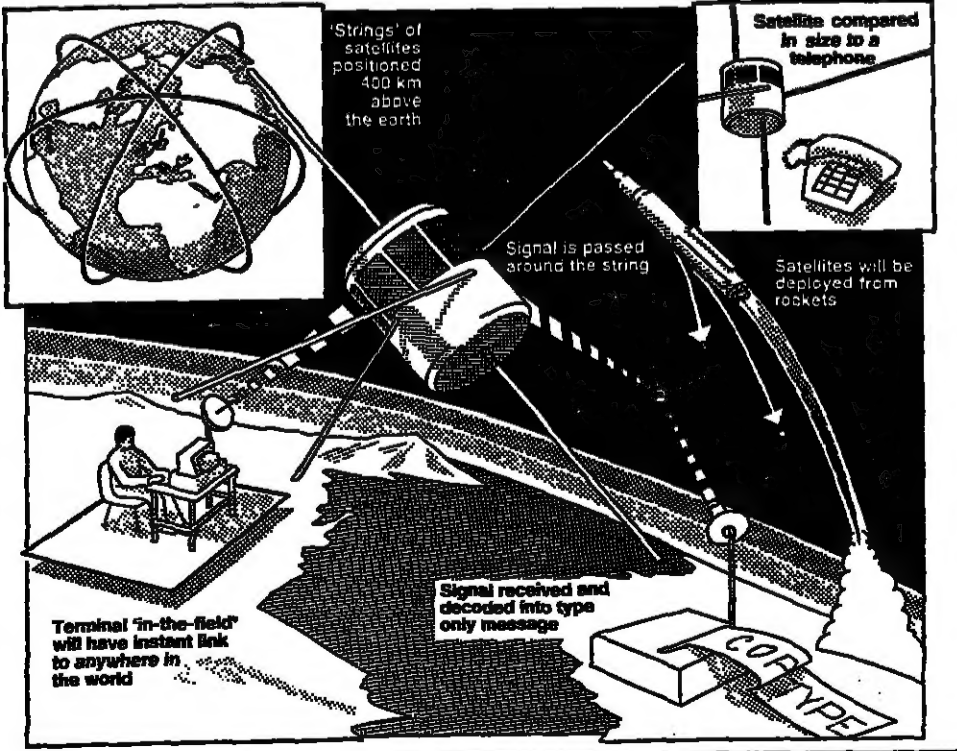
However, he said one of the key issues to be addressed was that of debris. Scientists and astronomers have become increasingly alarmed at the level of space junk orbiting the Earth which, it is claimed, affects the observation of stars and threatens other craft.

● Inmarsat, the international maritime satellite organization, may be forced to leave its headquarters in Euston, central London, and move overseas because of a lack of suitable office space.

Officials have made repeated requests to the Foreign Office for help in finding new premises but to no avail.

It is understood that the accommodation problem could affect delicate overtures by the Bank of England aimed at bringing the European Investment Bank to Britain. Inmarsat, a 56-nation council, was set up under Foreign Office agreement in February 1982.

Ariane setback, page 9



Crucial Lords vote on student loans

By Sheila Gunn, Political Reporter

The Government has dramatically raised the stakes over its plans to introduce student loans.

Ministers now say that if peers object to the lack of a detailed scheme in the legislation in the Lords next week, it will be regarded as a vote of no confidence.

A rarely used three-line whip has been issued by Lord Denham, the Government's Chief Whip in the Upper House, to his 400 peers, virtually ordering their attendance at Tuesday's vote.

If the Government loses the vote, Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, will be under pressure to withdraw the Education (Student Loans) Bill this session or produce detailed plans for an interest-free student loan scheme before Parliament.

The Whips predict a close vote either way as many Tories with university connections, led by Lord Beloff, are threatening to rebel over the scheme.

A majority of Independent peers, normally reluctant to rebel over a major government Bill, also dislike the scheme for interest-free loans. They regard it as discriminatory and assert that it would add to the debt problems of young people.

The vote will be on an amendment tabled by Lord Russell, the Social and Liberal Democrat peer, regretting the lack of information about the scheme. It builds on intense

Shooting case man for trial

A civil servant must stand trial "sooner rather than later" on murder and 17 attempted murder charges after a shooting incident, a judge ruled at a pre-trial hearing yesterday.

Mr Justice Leonard told Teesside Crown Court that he would give a direction on the date and place of the trial before Easter.

Robert Martin, who has pleaded not guilty to one charge of attempted murder, was arrested after a shotgun incident in which a father of two was killed and 14 were injured at Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear, on April 30. Mr Martin is being held at Park Lane top-security hospital, Liverpool.

Marsh remand

Terry Marsh, the former boxing world champion, was further remanded in custody until March 23 by magistrates at Barking, east London, charged with the attempted murder of Mr Frank Warren, his former manager.

Actress named

Miss Glenda Jackson, the actress, is one of four women on a shortlist to be nominated as Labour candidate for the marginal seat of Hampstead and Highgate, north London, held by the Conservatives.

Burnet 'dazed'

Sir Alastair Burnet, the ITN newsreader, who was found in Ladbroke Grove, west London, on Thursday night in a dazed state and with facial cuts and bruises, said yesterday he could not remember what had happened to him.

Bicycles back

Production of children's bicycles at the Raleigh factory, Nottingham, resumed after the company received the first safety certificate of its type in Britain for its brake system. The European Commission had ruled that children's bicycles should have back-pedal brakes.

Beadle ban

Jeremy Beadle, the television personality, was banned from driving for a month and fined £200 by Leicester magistrates yesterday for driving at more than 100 mph on the M1 last September.

BA increases cabin medical capability as in-flight illness mounts

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

So many airline passengers are now falling ill during their flights that British Airways has been forced to increase dramatically the amount of medicines and life-saving equipment carried on its aircraft.

Last year, doctors travelling as passengers on BA flights attended to 397 fellow passengers who became ill, and cabin crew dealt with a further 1,540 cases.

Thirteen aircraft were forced to divert because of ill passengers, at a time when the airline was

£20,000 a flight. The average age of a British Airways long-haul passenger is now 42 and doctors have warned the airline that this could rise sharply over the next few years as more older people travel.

This, they say, will mean that many passengers will be in their 70s and 80s with a greatly increased risk of illness striking during a flight.

British Airways has developed a new medical emergency kit containing 27 types of drugs, ranging from aspirin to a spray for angina, and also includes insulin for diabetics.

Machines for taking blood pressure and heart defibrillators are also on board.

Normally, airlines carry two separate medical kits - one for use by doctors and one which untrained cabin staff can use in an emergency.

The new BA kit - known as M5 - combines both and is said to be the most extensive carried by any world airline.

The Civil Aviation Authority has studied the equipment and is considering making it mandatory on all British-registered aircraft.

Cabin crew have also been

trained in a wide range of emergency techniques and have been cleared to administer more drugs which, until now, have been barred to non-medically qualified staff.

"We recognized the massive cost and inconvenience to passengers caused by diversions forced on us by illness and have worked with doctors and drug companies to address the problem," a BA spokesman said.

Passengers are themselves also taking a hand in trying to prevent medical problems from hitting them during their journey by

switching to a healthier range of food and less alcohol. The number of low calorie and vegetarian meals has trebled over the last five years, according to Mr Mike Street, the airline's head of catering.

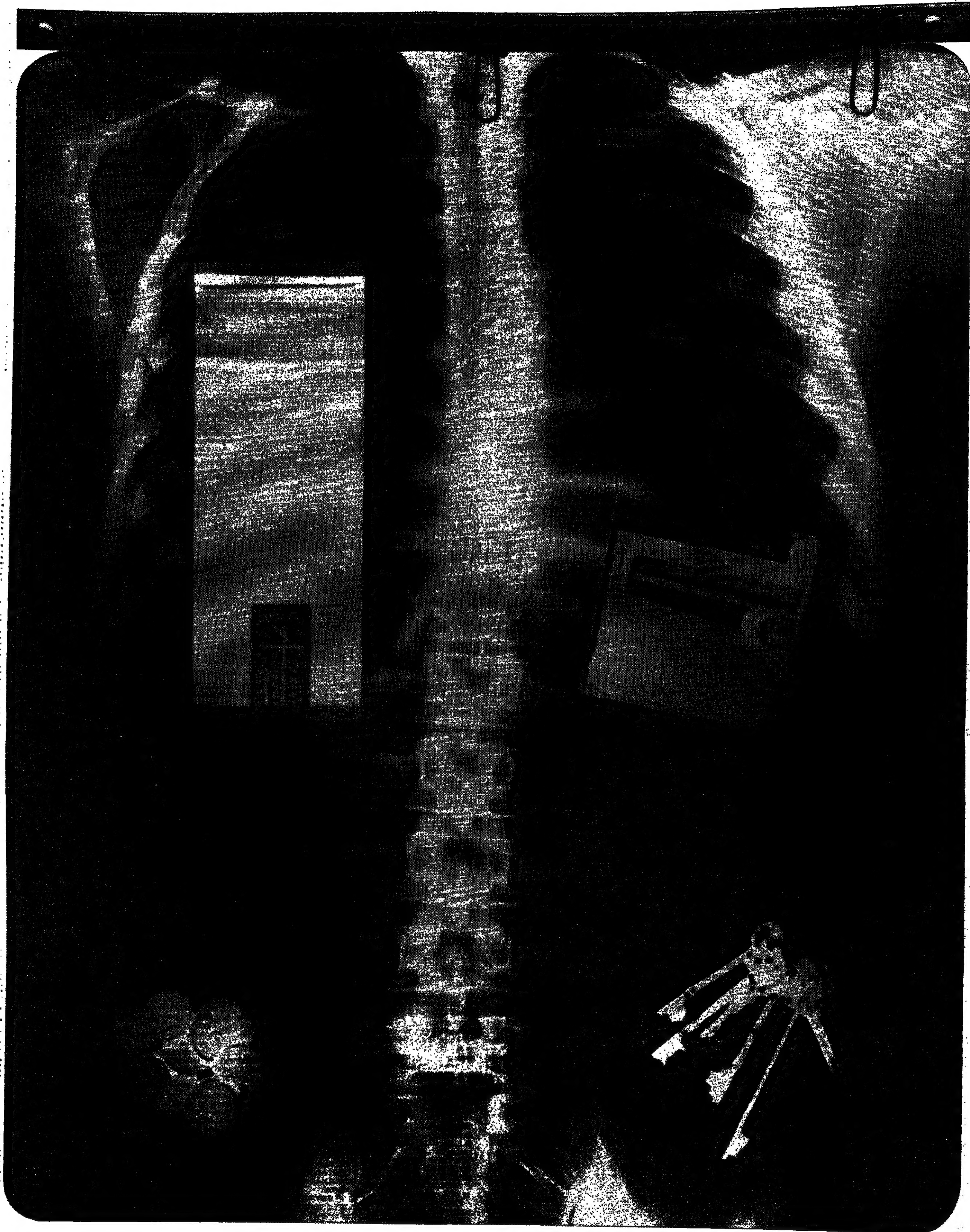
In total, British Airways catered for 63,000 vegetarian meals last year compared to 34,000 in 1985.

Mr Street said: "We are making further inroads into our approach towards healthier and lighter meals by introducing such features as steamed combinations of fish and lobster, steamed vegetables and vegetarian specialities."

● Aer Lingus, the Irish national airline, is close to signing an agreement with Aeroflot to train Russian cabin crews.

In a memorandum of understanding between the two airlines it has been agreed that feasibility studies will start into a wide range of cooperative deals ranging from maintenance and the linking of long-haul routes through Shannon airport.

The Irish airports company, Aer Rianta, also has close Russian links, and operates duty-free shops at Moscow and Leningrad airports.



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In the... Mr. Li... Commissioner... blames the poor... Government's... increase salaries... conditions of service... that junior police... feel that they... Britain's offer of... passports.

Mr. Li's... senior police... government... listed in the... Morning Post... today, it comes... manpower difficulties... proportions in the... 1,780 vacancies... conscripts last year... were filled... 1,380 officers left the force.

Mr. Li states that... results... order in Vietnamese... detention centres...

Both sides

From Charles Brumaire
Managua

President Ortega... crowd with an... leader of a Government... held... decide "How... tomorrow's... crowd respected... raised... he yelled "I... awful. So what... crowd obediently... Then the... fault is it? It's the... When Siles Ortega... does not say... of aid from... parous, the... ever hold the... recovery, when... Although they... sides of a bitter and blood-soaked...

Botha's w

From Jan Raut
Harare

Guy Bowden was... detainees' section... when the warden... that Mr. Nkomo... been freed.

"They thought it was... from," he said... laughed and they... and you are still here."

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Ian Smith i

From Our Correspondent

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Declining morale thins ranks of Hong Kong police

From Jonathan Brande, Hong Kong

Plummeting morale in the Royal Hong Kong Police, mass resignations and growing unrest among junior policemen are undermining their commitment to the force, according to a leaked memorandum.

In the confidential document, Mr Li Kwun-ha, the Commissioner of Police, blames the poor morale on the Government's failure to increase salaries and improve conditions of service. He adds that junior police officers also feel that they will miss out on Britain's offer of 225,000 UK passports.

Mr Li's memorandum for senior police officers and top government officials was published in the *South China Morning Post* newspaper yesterday. It comes amid growing manpower difficulties of crisis proportions in the force. Of 1,760 vacancies for police constables last year, only 847 were filled, while another 1,280 officers left the force.

Mr Li states that the force resents having to maintain order in Vietnamese refugee detention centres, and warns

of further manpower shortages as it prepares to take over border control duties from the British garrison in the run-up to 1997, when the colony will revert to Chinese sovereignty. Police sources say that staff may have to be withdrawn from other duties to man the border.

The leak comes as an opinion poll showed confidence among the people of Hong Kong in its future had plummeted even lower than in the aftermath of the massacre in Peking's Tiananmen Square last June.

The poll revealed that the majority were either disappointed by last week's final draft of the Basic Law - Hong Kong's post-1997 mini-constitution - or were past caring.

Forty-one per cent of those polled felt that the pace of democratic reform imposed by Britain and China on Hong Kong was too slow.

It also showed that 44 per cent rated the Basic Law as unsatisfactory while more than half said it did not reflect local aspirations.

Exodus declines: A decline in the number of Vietnamese arriving in Hong Kong so far this year offers new hope that both Vietnam and China have stepped up efforts to stem the exodus, according to Mr Geoffrey Barnes, Hong Kong's Secretary for Security.

In a valedictory statement before his retirement this weekend, he said arrivals so far this year were 45 per cent down on the same period last year and that 97 per cent of them had left Vietnam by crossing the border into China.

The figures indicate a new trend, since 91 per cent of previous arrivals were ethnic Chinese from South Vietnam. Last year 90 per cent left directly from Vietnamese ports and all were ethnic Vietnamese from the North.

However, observers cautioned that the figures were premature, as the sailing season does not begin until March. A total of 34,116 Vietnamese sailed into Hong Kong last year, while only 442 had arrived by the third week in February.

Violence mars glitter of Vienna opera ball



More than 1,000 demonstrators clashed with police outside the Vienna State Opera, left, during the annual opera ball, while inside President Waldheim chatted with one of the guests, Princess Caroline of Monaco. A police communiqué yesterday said

that at least 69 people, including 60 policemen, had been injured in the violence on Thursday night while the Vienna State Opera performed inside (AP reports). Ten other demonstrators had been detained. A registered demonstration against the

opulence of the occasion, with groups parading such slogans as "Gobble up the rich", erupted into fighting triggered by right-wing radicals, according to Herr Guenter Boegl, president of the police. Almost 3,000 officers ringed the Opera. About 7,000 Aus-

trian and foreign visitors attended the ball. The price of one ticket was £107 and the most expensive box cost nearly £7,000. Some radicals were reported to have smashed shop windows and damaged cars in the streets near the opera house.

Both sides in Nicaragua look to US for salvation

From Charles Bremner, Managua

President Ortega likes to tease the crowd with an unusual line for the leader of a Government which has held uninterrupted power for a decade. "How is the economy?" he bellowed at his last gathering before tomorrow's election. When the crowd responded with an embarrassed murmur "I can't hear you", he yelled "I'll tell you - it's bad, it's awful. So what is it?" "It's bad," the crowd obediently roared back.

Then the punchline: "And who's fault is it? It's the Americans."

What Señor Ortega knows, but does not say, is that, with the demise of aid from Nicaragua's Soviet bloc patrons, the Americans more than ever hold the key to his country's recovery, whoever wins the election.

Although they sit on opposing sides of a bitter and blood-soaked

divide, Señor Ortega's Sandinistas and the American-inspired UNO coalition group behind Señora Violeta Chamorro, his opposing presidential candidate, share remarkably similar plans for delivering the country from the ravages afflicting its economy.

In differing degree, both sides aim to bolster private enterprise, lure back exiles, and above all restore relations with the US, which would both end the crippling economic embargo imposed by Washington in 1985 and open the door to respectability - and finance - from the International Monetary Fund and other world bodies.

For Señora Chamorro, the promise of certain American money has been her strongest electioneering weapon, albeit a double-edged one because of Washington's funding of both her own campaign and the Contra war which has killed more

than 30,000 people. The Sandinistas have been forced to adopt a more delicate approach, denouncing the "Yankee dollars" while avoiding the uncomfortable fact that, once re-elected, they will be telling the people a lot more about the IMF than about Lenin.

Señor Ortega made no bones of his needs in a chat with journalists on Thursday. Making a metaphor of his recent switch from guerrilla uniform to designer jeans, he said: "It is time to put away the olive green... it is time to rebuild... I hope this election process closes a chapter in the United States-Nicaragua confrontation and opens a new chapter in co-operation."

In Washington they savour such remarks as an indication of the power the US will have even if the Sandinistas win the elections.

Making a virtue out of a necessity, the Sandinistas now claim to have

adopted *perestroika* ahead of their East European benefactors. The big change in policy came in 1988 when, enduring inflation of 34,000 per cent and a collapse of exports, the Sandinistas inflicted "surgery without anaesthetic", lifting price controls and freeing the hand of the businessmen whose operations had been restricted in the earlier years of the revolution.

The drying up of aid from the East bloc has proved a bitter lesson for the Sandinistas, whose present predicament is a far cry from the heady days of the victory, when they nationalized businesses and confiscated land and handed it to more than 10,000 families.

Now they are being lectured by their newly reformed comrades. Mr Zdenek Dizek, the long-serving Czechoslovak Ambassador, says: "I know this country in depth, and I know there must be profound

changes here." In his view, greater freedom for private enterprise is the essential key.

The Sandinistas deny, however, that they were over-dependent on socialist largesse. "It has been an important source of help to get us through a difficult time," Señor Alejandro Martínez Cuenca, the Planning Minister, said. "But it is a myth that Nicaragua depends on aid from the Soviet Union."

In the opposition, however, they scoff at the idea that the Sandinistas can suddenly find the expertise and international goodwill to pull the country out of its morass and restore its fortunes.

"The cash needed to lift this country up just does not exist for the Sandinistas," said Señor Gilberto Cuadra, the head of the business council and an official of the opposition coalition.

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Syria to press for hostages' release

Damascus (AP) - Mr Farouk al-Sharrah, the Syrian Foreign Minister, has told the sister of one of the American hostages in Lebanon that he will visit Iran soon to push for the hostages' release. Mr al-Sharrah told Mrs Peggy Sey, sister of Terry Anderson, the former chief Middle East correspondent for Associated Press, that he would "work intensively with the top Iranian leaders" on the hostage issue.

"I hope we will be able to arrive at good results," he said. Mr al-Sharrah said that Syria had told Iran's leaders "that it is in their interest to work with us in gaining the release of the hostages". The meeting coincided with an editorial in the English-language *Tehran Times* which said that the 18 foreign hostages in Lebanon should be released without preconditions. The paper is close to President Rafsanjani of Iran. Mr al-Sharrah called the editorial "a good sign".

Ex-minister cleared

Lawrence (AP) - Mrs Elisabeth Kopp, the former Swiss Justice Minister, was cleared yesterday of charges that she illegally gave her husband inside government information about a drug money investigation. A supreme court jury, ruling in Switzerland's first criminal case against a former Cabinet member, said the evidence did not support prosecution claims that Mrs Kopp, aged 53, knowingly passed secrets. But the five-man Federal Criminal Court said she had lacked "the required care". Mrs Kopp, Switzerland's only female government minister, resigned over the affair in January, 1989. She was in line to be the first woman to hold the country's presidency.

Setback for bombers

Washington - The future of the B-2 "Stealth" bomber was in doubt yesterday after damning new testimony had further cut congressional support for the aircraft (Martin Fletcher writes). Originally the US Air Force wanted a 132-strong fleet of B-2s. The debate has shifted so far that Congress is now debating whether to order any more than the 16 aircraft already authorized. The Pentagon wants \$5.5 billion (£3.2 billion) for five more aircraft. The General Accounting Office warned this week that technical problems could push the price of each plane far above the present \$530 million.

Jail term for Briton

Wiesbaden (AP) - A West German court yesterday convicted a Briton on kidnapping and extortion charges in the abduction of a Lufthansa airlines manager in Bolivia in 1983 and sentenced him to 13 years in prison. Alan Rees, aged 38, of Ammanford, Wales, went on trial in Wiesbaden in May 1989, in connection with the kidnapping of Mr Michael Wurche, a Lufthansa manager, who was held for 11 days after his abduction in La Paz on November 14, 1983. The defence lawyer, who asked that Rees receive not more than six years, said he would appeal.

Kenya funeral clash

Nairobi - Kenyan paramilitary police fired tear gas to disperse stone-throwing demonstrators and looters who rampaged through Nairobi yesterday after a funeral service for Dr Robert Ouko, the murdered Foreign Minister (A Correspondent writes). Violence erupted outside the church when the 15,000-strong crowd was refused permission to view the body, witnesses said. Tension has been mounting since the charred and mutilated remains of Dr Ouko were discovered last Friday. The protesters claim that the Government was involved in his murder.

Botha's warriors still languish in prisons of Zimbabwe

From Jan Raath, Harare

Guy Bowden was in the detainees' section last week when the warders told him that Mr Nelson Mandela had been freed.

"They thought it was very funny," he said. "They laughed and they said, 'Yes, and you are still here'."

The irony was obvious to the warders and a certain group of prisoners within the 22-ft high walls of Chikurubi prison in a pretty, wooded suburb of Harare: freedom for Mr Mandela in South Africa, but no such prospect for those convicted or merely suspected of taking up arms for Pretoria against the liberation move-

ments. The flotsam and jetsam of the Botha era, those involved in the years of South African destabilization against frontline states, car bombs, assassinations and sabotage, languish in jail in Zimbabwe.

Mr Bowden was let out of Chikurubi late on Wednesday afternoon, after more than two years' detention without trial. He had been held on allegations of being involved in a car bomb explosion aimed at an ANC sympathizer in a Harare suburban shopping centre in August, 1987.

After 19 months of being on remand and held under detention laws, he had the charges against him dropped last August for lack of evidence. Last month he was taken under

heavy military escort to the country's sole urologist who diagnosed severe transitional cell carcinoma of the bladder, and advised that, unless the disease underwent surgery within a month his condition would become terminal.

Following letters from his lawyers to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Mr Bowden's release came quickly. He is to leave as soon as he retrieves his Zimbabwean passport for surgery and post-operative care in Johannesburg. After that, he wants to go back to his family's sprawling ranch in western Zimbabwe.

His elder brother, Kit, is Zimbabwe's most wanted man, named in trials as the

driving force behind a group of white and black former Rhodesian military specialists, gathering intelligence on the ANC, setting up assassinations, bombing ANC houses and carrying out acts of sabotage under the guidance of military intelligence in Pretoria.

Kit escaped over the border into South Africa the day after blowing up an ANC residence in Bulawayo. But in his wake Zimbabwean police caught Guy Bowden's cousin, Barry, and three other "associates", all convicted of being members of the group. Guy Bowden was also dragged in. Barry is in Chikurubi's convicted section.

Denis "Sammy" Beahan,

who was born in Manchester and who was convicted last year of leading a hired group of mercenaries - again under the direction of military intelligence - to free Barry Bowden and his colleagues, "has a permanent shake", thanks to the prison's grim conditions. Barry has over 39 years to go and Beahan 29.

The absurd prison routine sets breakfast for 7am, lunch at 10am, and supper at 2pm. "People change inside," Guy Bowden said. "I've seen them change."

The food in Chikurubi is terrible, he added. Once he told a warder that not even the dogs on his farm were given food like that. Another time an official of the British High

Commission dumped a bit of meat from a prison meal on the desk of a senior prison officer and asked him to identify it. He could not do so, Guy said.

Mr Bowden started passing blood in his urine soon after his arrest, following an assault in a suburban Harare police station by two policemen who punched and kicked him in the kidneys and the lower stomach for over an hour trying to get him to sign a confession, he said.

Prison medication cleared up the bleeding but it started again. "They would start you on a five-day course of medicine, but after two days they cannot get the medication, or they forget," he said.

Ian Smith in electoral alliance

From Our Correspondent, Harare

The Zimbabwe Unity Movement, Zimbabwe's only significant national opposition party, is to be fully supported in its campaign for national elections, scheduled for March 28-29, by the Conservative Alliance of Zimbabwe, the direct descendant of the whites-only former Rhodesian Front.

Announcing the alliance, Mr Davison Gomo, a spokesman for the Movement, said yesterday: "They will throw all their lot behind us."

Mr Gerald Smith, president

of the Alliance, shared the podium with Mr Edgar Tekere, chairman of the Movement and the former secretary-general of the ruling Zanu-PF, and was loudly cheered by hundreds of black Movement supporters.

He also announced that Mr Ian Smith, the former Rhodesian Prime Minister who once vowed he would never see black majority rule in Rhodesia, was "directly involved" in the campaign, playing an active role in advice and the day-to-day party movements.



Mr Tekere: Cheers for link with the white right.

Blacks join white liberals' march

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

South Africa's much maligned white liberals - vilified as sell-outs by right-wingers and regarded with scorn by many black radicals - were given a heartening boost yesterday when about 1,000 blacks joined them on a march in central Johannesburg.

The march "for democracy, peace and negotiation" by the Democratic Party, which has 29 seats in the whites' House of Assembly, was a minute and placid affair compared with last week's demonstration in Pretoria against apart-

heid reform. That was organized by the white supremacist Conservative Party, the official parliamentary Opposition in which Nazi flags and blatantly racist slogans were flaunted.

Yesterday's march started only a short distance from Johannesburg's city hall and was over in about 10 minutes. In that time, the 1,500 Democratic Party marchers were joined by 1,000 blacks who changed their chant from "ANC, ANC..." to "DP, DP..." One of their banners

proclaimed: "The CP is a banana peel on the doorstep of progress".

In the hall Mr Jackson Tembu, Transvaal secretary of the United Democratic Front, an African National Congress affiliate, described the Democratic Party as "the only voice of reason in white politics in recent years".

Dr Zac de Beer, the party's joint leader, said that he had met Mr Nelson Mandela and that the "foundations have been laid of a friendship which bodes well for all".

Letter from Kathmandu

Yuppies oust the hippies of yesteryear

Knifing through the alleyways of Kathmandu, a chill wind tugs at the limp grey hair of the relics of a bygone age while the Nineties generation jogs by panting, pink and bright.

A few old hippies watch with weary eyes. They came in the Sixties in search of themselves; modern yuppies arrive in search of a really good hike. Kathmandu, spiritual home of flower power, has become square or, as today's nomenclature would have it, "naïf".

The Sixties meet the Nineties in the cubby-hole stores, middle age and youth uncomfortably curious about one another. Contempt and rage colour the eyes of the few sad young men who stayed on even when it was all over, and suddenly find themselves aged 45.

The Nineties people look terrifyingly superior and conventional, brandishing credit cards as they search for a small hand-made carpet for the living room back home. They hire bicycles and get up with the dawn because, as the guidebook says, Nepal is so pretty.

Once in a while a young long-haired American, guitar in hand, parks himself on a corner and strums a three-chord tune - a lost spirit belonging nowhere.

poor imitation; the Nineties yuppies think he is nuts.

The old Kathmandu began to die a decade ago when the Government clamped down on drugs. Shopkeepers who had openly stocked sachets of marijuana were jailed for having so much as a joint. Another knell sounded when new visa requirements forced people to leave every three months.

A few stayed on, scratching a living as teachers, or sinking unobtrusively into religious communes. Others run small restaurants, handicraft shops or travel agencies. Some still look like mad painters, even if they have abandoned the garb and babble of their dead era.

Each year a steady trickle of erstwhile flower people flows back to the old haunts for a nostalgic look, often with children in tow. The women try on saris again and stick *tika* marks on their foreheads. For some reason the men all stop shaving. On the whole, they find their return to Kathmandu gravely disappointing because it, like them, has become a little staid.

Even so, plenty of the off-beat young still ply the aptly named Freak Street in the centre of Kathmandu. They wear

ing, sandal-shod Westerners with braided hair stroll through the alleys twirling holy beads and muttering mantras. Despite the drugs clampdown, tons whisper: "Hashish? Good stuff, come with me." Hard drugs, and particularly heroin, are still a terrible problem in Nepal.

At the moment Kathmandu is waiting for the start of the main tourist trade next month, when package tour operators will whisk people in for two or three days of mountain walks. Students will arrive soon for the summer, checking into dreadful little hotels with grand names.

It is plainly a happier place than it was. Hindus and Buddhists are praying at each other's temples, showing that religious harmony is infinitely possible. King Birendra is loved as much as ever, despite the unfamiliar sound of political agitation by those seeking multi-party democracy. Most of the tourists these days are normal and nice.

The Nepalis themselves are not the least bit nostalgic about the Sixties. The era, painted an ugly smear on their ancient kingdom, and they would just as soon forget all about it.

Christopher Thomas

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CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

German Left rejects Nato role

From Ian Murray
Bonn

Herr Oskar Lafontaine, the Saarland Prime Minister, who is almost certain to be the opposition Social Democrat (SPD) candidate for chancellor in December, yesterday said it was "anachronistic" to say that a united Germany should be a member of Nato.

Herr Lafontaine was making his first campaigning speech in East Germany at an SPD rally in Leipzig. He was greeted with rapturous applause by the 500 delegates at the special conference, which is being held to prepare for the election on March 18.

Disarmament, he said, was the subject on the agenda. "Unity means an atom and chemical weapon free Europe," he said.

Attacking the failure so far of Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, to recognise the existing western frontiers of Poland, he said: "Unity means that we must live inside the borders of 1990."

He criticized Herr Kohl for being a hindrance to unity. If the Chancellor claimed it was both possible to send massive help to East Germany after the election and at the same time said it was not necessary to raise taxes and cut social security benefits, then he was caught out red-handed as a liar, Herr Lafontaine said.

He said the Chancellor had been "autocratic personified" in his interpretation of President Gorbachev's views on German unity.

As far as currency union between the two Germanys was concerned, the SPD leader said that the European Community had probably only learnt about it from reading newspaper reports.

The Chancellor, he said, should realise that for East Germans, dignity and self-



Oskar Lafontaine, right, with Ibrahim Boehme, chairman of the East German SPD, waving to party delegates in Leipzig.

move west, and now the Saarland parliament is hiring apartments in Farebersviller in Lorraine, France, to house up to 200 resettlers from East Germany.

Reunification will be the main subject discussed by Dhaka - President Mitterrand of France said that Europe should respect state frontiers to avoid threats to peace (Ahmed Fazi writes). Ending a visit to Bangladesh he said a united Germany could raise frontier problems.

Herr Kohl when he flies to Camp David today to see President Bush. Relations between the two leaders are

particularly good, with a new "special relationship" being spoken of between the two following the American president's acknowledgement last May that West Germany and the United States were "partners in leadership". The main American concern is that the Chancellor has not yet given a guarantee that Poland's frontiers will be honoured.

In East Germany, there is now a move among East German parties to try to unite Berlin even before national reunification by appointing Herr Walter Momper, the SPD mayor of West Berlin, as lord mayor of both halves.

ROME - Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis

has called for a special Nato summit on German unification and said the military alliance will have to transform itself (Reuter reports).

"I am personally convinced that we will need an extraordinary summit of Nato... to take into account the consequences of German unification," De Michelis said.

He said NATO should follow the example of the European Community, which decided last week to hold a special summit in April to discuss problems of German unification.

"The essence of NATO is changing and with German unification it will be totally changed," he added.

Romanian air traffic staff strike for 300% pay rise

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

Disgruntled Romanian air traffic controllers at the main Otopeni international airport yesterday staged a 24-hour strike, the first of its kind for more than 24 years.

The strike, cutting air links with the outside world, caused chaos as businessmen, aid workers and journalists scrambled to re-book scarce hotel space and to find seats on planes leaving over the weekend. The strike is due to end at 10am today.

"We have never had to deal with anything like this before, it is something completely new," explained a harassed employee of Tarom, the poorly equipped national airline, as she was surrounded by angry passengers. "There is only one telephone line to the airport and it is impossible to get any answer there."

The strike was the most spectacular in a wave which is sweeping across the country as workers exercise new freedoms and react against some

of the poorest wages and conditions in Eastern Europe. Already miners, tram drivers, film-makers, lorry drivers and teachers have staged work stoppages and more are expected.

The air controllers, who in keeping with the tactics of their Western counterparts chose the busiest day of the week to stage their industrial action, were demanding a 300 per cent increase in their annual monthly pay of 3,000 lei (288) and increases in their holiday entitlement.

Their action was particularly damaging as Romania suffers from crippling shortages in most basic materials, supplies of which are often flown in by air. There was little public sympathy for the controllers as most other social groups get low rates of pay set under the old communist regime.

Political sources said the ruling National Salvation Front has recently discussed

the possibility of introducing a legal "cooling-off period" in an attempt to prevent strikes biting an economy already brought to its knees by Ceausescu. But no decisions have been announced.

Mr Petre Roman, the Prime Minister and chief economic troubleshooter, said over the past 10 years the resources of the economy had been exhausted, having been funnelled into projects with no technical or economic rationale. He estimated the amount wasted over the last decade at 100 billion lei.

The interim Government has already this week clamped down on the right of Romanians to demonstrate, notably in front of its own offices besieged headquarters in Victory Square. Many Western observers believe that it cannot politically afford to alienate the workforce, the main source of its popular support by restricting the new-found right to strike.

Book ban greeted with confusion

From Ernest Beck, Budapest, and Tim Judah, Bucharest

With tensions rising in Transylvania between Romanian nationalists and ethnic Hungarians, Romanian authorities yesterday announced a surprise ban on the direct import of Hungarian-language books to the region. But how wide-ranging it will be is at present a source of confusion.

The Hungarian Finance Ministry confirmed the ban, saying that its Customs division had received an official notice from the Romanian Government stating that aid shipments containing Hungarian-language books -

including literature, textbooks, teaching materials and even fairy-tales must go to the Ministry of Culture in Bucharest, not straight to Transylvania.

The only exception to the listed book categories is Hungarian-language Bibles, the Finance Ministry in Budapest said.

However, as Budapest Radio reported that Romanian guards were confiscating Hungarian-language schoolbooks at the frontier, Mr Octavian Stanculescu, Romania's Deputy Minister of Edu-

cation, said he knew nothing of the ban and found it "rather hard to believe".

Mr Stanculescu said that he was keen to clarify his ministry's position and to avoid any misunderstanding. "We have no objection to private citizens bringing the odd schoolbook into the country. However, I must stress that we will not stand for large amounts being imported. They must come through the proper channels. That's to say, our ministry. Obviously we have no objections to ordinary books being brought in."

Cambodia conflict

Sihanouk returns to his homeland

From Neil Kelly, Serepheap, Cambodia

Prince Norodom Sihanouk yesterday returned to Cambodia after 11 years in exile.

The Prince, who has led the resistance alliance while living in China, North Korea and France, said his return was a turning point in the conflict and an encouragement to his people and army, who had made many sacrifices during their fight against Vietnamese domination.

"We are now crossing the frontier from Thailand into Cambodia," said the Prince, aged 68, as he walked across dusty paddy fields into his own country. This location formerly had no name but the

Bangkok (Reuter) - Cambodian guerrillas confirmed yesterday that army troops had captured a rebel stronghold in the north-west of the country after four days of fighting. The army now held Svay Chek, a forward base of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, one of the guerrilla factions fighting the Government, Phnom Penh radio said. The Front overran the village in early December.

Prince calls it "Serepheap", which means freedom village. His old capital, Phnom Penh, is 200 miles away to the south-east. An army band welcomed the Prince and Princess Monique, his wife, with the old Cambodian national anthem. Local villagers shouted: "Long live the father of Cambodia."

This area was occupied six months ago by the Prince's army after the withdrawal of Vietnamese and Phnom Penh government forces. The army controls 375 square miles of north-west Cambodia. The Prince will live in this remote corner of his country

but at the same time be recognized by most countries as Cambodia's legitimate head of state. He said he would devote himself to providing food, medical care, clothing and education for all Cambodians who came here.

The Prince's decision to return is seen as a gesture to increase his credibility with Cambodians.

Prince Sihanouk is being represented at Jakarta talks on Cambodia by his son, Prince Ranariddh. He said a better atmosphere now existed between the four Cambodian factions.

But his meetings three days ago with Mr Hun Sen, the leader of the Phnom Penh Government, had confirmed that many differences remained. Neither side had made concessions and still could not agree on the nature of the administration which should govern Cambodia after a ceasefire and prepare it for national elections.

Mr Hun Sen had agreed to accept Khmer Rouge leaders in an interim government but was setting other conditions, the Prince said.

PHNOM PENH: Several thousand Vietnamese troops and military advisers returned to Cambodia at the end of October at Phnom Penh's request and are now helping to defend two strategic cities in north-west Cambodia from attack by Khmer Rouge guerrillas, according to senior Eastern European diplomats (The New York Times reports).

Cambodian and Vietnamese officials deny that there are Vietnamese troops in Cambodia or that any returned after their much-publicized withdrawal at the end of September.

Carlsson unveils new deal

Stockholm (Reuter) - Mr Ingvar Carlsson, whose minority government resigned a week ago, yesterday unveiled a revised economic package and prepared to head a new Social Democratic administration.

He has dropped the proposals for a ban on strikes and wage increases which brought down his government. But other parts of his original package remain, including freezes on prices, rents and municipal taxes.

Beirut battle

Beirut - At least two people died yesterday as new clashes between the forces of General Michel Aoun and Mr Samir Geagea broke a six-day ceasefire.

Tanker blast

Dubai (Reuter) - An explosion in the Gulf on the Kuwaiti-owned tanker, Surf City was almost certainly not caused by a mine, say the shipowners.

Rome record

Rome (Reuter) - Rome yesterday basked in temperatures of 21°C, the warmest for February since 1782.

Students held

Tunis (AP) - Police have arrested about 470 students occupying university buildings around the country in protest at poor living conditions and police on campus.

Abortion move

Brussels (AP) - A parliamentary panel has approved a Bill to end a 123-year-old ban on abortions in Belgium.

Flock shorn

Wellington (Reuter) - New Zealand's most famous statistic, the ratio of sheep to people, has fallen from 20-1 to 19-1 since June, 1988.

Ariane satellite programme suspended after explosion

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

All satellite launches in the European Space Agency's programme have been suspended following the explosion that wrecked the Ariane-4 rocket off the coast of French Guiana on Thursday night.

Preliminary reports from Kourou, French Guiana, yesterday suggest that the accident was caused by the failure of two of Ariane-4's eight Viking motors seconds after lift-off. The rocket's trajectory then began to veer wildly and it exploded about six miles from the launch station.

As experts at the Ariane space base in Kourou began to investigate what had gone wrong less than two minutes after lift-off, there were fears that the failure of the 36th

group's high reputation in the competitive business of putting commercial satellites into orbit.

With contracts for 32 more launches on the books - worth an estimated £1.4 billion, the largely French-owned and operated Ariane-space holds about half the market. After 17 consecutive successful missions there had been high hopes of winning more orders at the expense of US competitors.

Before Thursday's explosion, Ariane-space had lost four other rockets, the last in May 1986 when flights were suspended for 16 months.

The payload on the latest launch consisted of two Japanese satellites - one, owned by Space Communications

munications, the other for television - worth about £250 million, which will be covered by Ariane-space's insurance.

It is not yet known how Thursday's explosion - the first failure of an Ariane-4 rocket - will affect plans by the 13-nation European consortium to develop an Ariane-5 series for ultra-heavy payloads with very high mission safety conditions suitable for manned spaceflights. A reusable "spaceplane", Hermes, is also under development.

TOKYO: The explosion of the Ariane rocket will delay plans by the Mitsubishi group to expand Japan-wide satellite news-gathering services to television stations for as long as three years, industry

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THE TIMES SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24 1990

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HARD POUNDING

"Hard pounding this, gentlemen", said the Iron Duke at his most famous battle. "Let's see who will pound longest." The health secretary is no Wellington, and the result of Waterloo did not have to go to a ballot. It was for all that Mr Kenneth Clarke who emerged from the cannon smoke yesterday morning as the victor in the 24-week ambulance dispute.

Both sides have an interest in representing the outcome as a cross between a compromise and a victory, but the ambulance men do not in truth have a great deal to show for the sacrifices they have made since September. Their central demand throughout has been for some sort of automatic pay formula. They have not achieved it.

Indeed, Mr Roger Poole, the chief union negotiator, admitted yesterday morning that he had known that the Government were not going to concede since November, which raises questions about what he has been saying to his membership in the past three months. What emerges from the complexities of the small print is that the two-year agreement offers only marginally more than the 18-month deal previously rejected.

If the matter had been decided on a straw poll of television viewers, it might well have gone the other way. Mr Poole seldom raised his voice and looked and sounded altogether more reasonable than the case he was presenting on behalf of the five ambulance unions. Wisecracks will no doubt continue to heap on him the rather pointless sort of praise accorded to Mr Kinnock after the last election for the presentational skills of Labour's campaign. The truer, crueler comparison is that, like Mr Kinnock, Mr Poole failed to deliver.

Possibly that is why he permitted himself his notably injudicious remark about having driven a coach and horses through the Government's pay policy. The boast was an idle one, as it happens, but if that was his undeclared intention, all the more reason for satisfaction at his failure. Mr Poole is clearly more of a political animal than he seems.

Neither side emerges unscathed from the dispute, and a good many bystanders have been caught in the crossfire. The ambulance men clearly believed that everyone who put a

fiver in their buckets was subscribing to the detail of their demands, but there is a difference between public sympathy and public support. They will now learn, like the miners before them, that the damage which a lengthy dispute inflicts on their family finances takes years rather than months to repair. The mending of personal and working relationships between management and staff will also be a slow process.

Mr Clarke has taken a lot of stick in the past five and a half months. His disinclination to wrap up unpalatable truths has not always worked to his advantage in public relations terms, but he deserves the gratitude of his Cabinet colleagues for holding the line on two sectors of the front simultaneously.

First, he held from the start that the unions' original wage demands would be inflationary and gave unreserved backing to Mr Duncan Nichol, the NHS Chief Executive, in resisting them. Secondly, he maintained that to concede the rest of what the unions were asking for would significantly blunt the thrust of his reforms for the National Health Service.

The unions have done their best to make the public flesh creep with their estimates of the cost of the dispute — more than a million hours of police time, £2-3 million for the 200 military ambulances deployed. The assertion that their claim could have been met for less, however, is beside the point. The Government knew well enough that the cost of the dispute would be high. They also knew that the cost of not being able to restructure the service would be even higher.

The way is now open for more Government-backed schemes to contract out the service's non-emergency work and an increase in the numbers of better-paid paramedics. Most important of all, there will be a move to negotiation at local level. Managers will be able to reward skills more effectively, and in arriving at future settlements can take account of the particular problems of recruitment and retention in their areas. An important step has been taken towards a better accident and emergency service. Mr Clarke can now press ahead with his reforms.

ORTEGA AT THE POLLS

Nicaragua goes to the polls tomorrow to elect a president. That fact alone is worthy of celebration. The adoption of democracy in Managua is a direct result of pressure from outside, notably from Washington.

The election is hardly a fight between equals. On one side is the Marxist-Sandinista government which has been able to deploy the resources of the state to carry its campaign message to the people. On the other is a ragbag of opponents only temporarily united. United States funding of the National Opposition Union (UNO) has, moreover, been chaotic, while its candidate, the newspaper publisher Señora Violeta Chamorro, has been handicapped by a broken leg.

None the less, the spotlight has been turned on Nicaragua. The presence of international observers may not entirely eradicate corruption, either in the polling booths or at the count, but fraud on a national scale would be difficult. Voters have therefore a choice and an opportunity.

Although the evidence of the opinion polls favours the government the result is by no means a foregone conclusion. In some areas people might need a certain amount of courage to mark even a secret ballot paper against the men who control their jobs and welfare benefits. Understandably they might be reluctant to take the risk twice by revealing their opposition sympathies to the pollsters.

Equally, however, those who have seen democracy sweep triumphantly through Eastern Europe in recent months should not view Señor Ortega as another Mr Ceausescu — ready to be brushed aside by the onrush of history. The Sandinistas still enjoy a nationalist following from their days as freedom fighters

against the right-wing military regime of President Somoza. Their leader has a personal support which has been reinforced by the recent transformation of his image — from that of a grey ex-guerrilla to glowing shirt-sleeved populist.

The government is not running on its record. Not even the best political strategist can make a virtue of a bloated currency, a battered economy and cities where civilians do not have enough to eat. It is running on the claim that the Americans and their UNO friends are really responsible for the present mess. That is a claim on which the voters must decide. Señora Chamorro in fact belonged to the revolutionary group which overthrew Somoza. She parted from her colleagues because of disagreements over Marxist dogma and Soviet penetration of the government.

Marxism has failed in Nicaragua just as it has failed elsewhere. It has also aroused the fear and active opposition of the United States. If the Sandinistas win tomorrow's poll, it will be incumbent upon the internal opposition and its friends abroad to ensure that the example of democracy survives. The US Secretary of State, Mr James Baker, is thought to be anxious to restore normal relations with a democratically elected Ortega as soon as possible. But the White House will need to show caution.

If the Sandinistas lose, Señora Chamorro will have the enormous task of breaking down the politicized structures of the army in case it should mount a military coup. Whatever the result, however, the international attention given to Nicaragua this weekend will be needed even more in the months to come.

THE TWILIGHT OF MRS AQUINO

Four years ago tomorrow, Mr Ferdinand Marcos bowed to "people power" and slipped out of Malacanang Palace into exile in the United States. Mrs Cory Aquino, the widow of an assassinated political rival, became President of the Philippines amid scenes of extraordinary popular rejoicing.

Many Filipinos likened her to Joan of Arc, and she had about as much political and administrative experience. After the political and economic corruption of the Marcos dictatorship, however, her shortcomings were amply compensated by her honesty, her undoubted commitment to democracy and the Filipinos' almost religious faith in her. That faith has now worn thin.

Last December, the sixth coup against her was put down only after President Bush authorized the use of American air power, and then only inconclusively. The highly-politicized Armed Forces remain deeply divided and foreign investors have again been frightened away from the battered economy. The country is in deep political crisis.

The December coup was the most serious challenge yet to the civilian Government. Mrs Aquino's response, a popular rally and a cosmetic Cabinet reshuffle, was inadequate. The President not only insists (as she did just before the December coup) that she remains "firmly in control", she is acting as though there were no crisis. Her recompense to the US for President Bush's support in December was to refuse this week to see the US Defence Secretary, Mr Dick Cheney, when he visited Manila — a rebuke for Congressional reductions in economic aid.

So fragile is Mrs Aquino's Government that it is questionable whether not only she, but the democratic process she initiated, can survive until the next presidential elections in 1992. The leaders of the coup are still at large, a military takeover looks increasingly probable and her potentially most formidable adversary has returned to the Philippines. Mr Eduardo

Cojuangco, a multi-millionaire associate of Mr Marcos, faces a series of civil and criminal charges, but these are unlikely to be concluded before the elections; he has been given an ominously warm welcome by many in the old Manila establishment.

Mrs Aquino can no longer rely on "people power". Through indecisiveness on key questions she has also lost support among the middle classes, crucial to her battle against entrenched privilege. The land reform laws, of critical importance in a country in which 90 per cent of the land is owned by a tenth of the population, have been watered down, in particular by phasing them in over a decade — a recipe for reduced investment by landlords and rising peasant anger.

In a recent independent survey, the Philippines came top of the Asian corruption league and second only to post-Tiananmen China as an unattractive investment prospect. Bureaucratic mismanagement is holding up disbursement of the considerable aid made available by Japan and the West. Mrs Aquino has also refused to employ her moral authority in favour of family planning. Without a vigorous effort at birth control, the population will double within 25 years, negating all benefits of the Philippines' current economic growth.

In four years, it would have been too much to expect any government to eradicate the Marcos legacy — an asset-stripped economy run by networks of Marcos cronies, the fastest-growing communist insurgency in Asia, a powerful Muslim separatist movement in the resource-rich southern island of Mindanao. Mrs Aquino should, however, stick to her vow not to seek a second term of office. She should now move to assemble an administrative team, possibly headed by her widely respected defence minister, General Fidel Ramos, capable of fulfilling the promises of those heady days in 1986.

Impartiality and BBC's 'Today'

From Mr C. M. Smythe
Sir, John Birt, in his article (February 19) replying to Woodrow Wyatt's letter (February 13) of bias on the part of the editor and presenters on Radio 4's *Today* programme, says that the BBC, unlike Lord Wyatt, do not wish to know about their private convictions. He did not go on to consider whether it might be in the interest of listeners were these convictions to be disclosed.

Why this coyance on the part of the BBC? Lord Wyatt tells us that a more open attitude prevails amongst broadcasters in the United States. Mr Birt has nothing to say about that.

Is it not arguable that full disclosure of an individual's political background and convictions assist in ensuring a balanced view on most issues? Some may agree with me that two of the most independent and fair-minded presenters today are Brian Walden and Robert Kilroy-Silk. Both are ex-Labour MPs. Is it conceivable that in the knowledge that the public are aware of their background, they go out of their way to try to achieve balance and fair play when they are interviewing?

There is an interesting analogy with what often seems to occur in the legal profession when a QC who has specialised in acting for defendants in civil cases becomes a judge. For many years I worked in the liability claims department of a leading insurance company. It was often our experience, when one of "our" leading QCs was elevated, that they appeared to be "pro-plaintiff" when they got on to the bench.

This was no more than an impression given by several judges, but if there is substance in the impression, the analogy is that the example of the judiciary doing all they can to ensure fair play, in the knowledge that they had gained their reputation mainly acting for defendants.

There seems to be a link here with media presenters with a past which is fully disclosed. Has the time not come for rather more *glamour* from the BBC?

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES M. SMYTHE
Whitburn, Malvern, Perthshire.
February 20.

From Mr Sidney Atkins
Sir, The article by William Greaves (Media and Marketing, February 21) about alleged bias in the BBC Radio's programme *Today* is interesting, but it does not deal with the prime point. The mixture of news, comment, humour, religion, sport and other aspects of life suggests that the interviewers can rarely know much about each piece of a few minutes which they host.

These are broadcasters from a variety of professional backgrounds and with a varying level of ability. Some have been abrasive, interfering, or inadequate in their efforts; others achieve a result by humour or persistence.

I believe the twin faults of the programme are the mix of facets and the over-eagerness of politicians to appear at short notice, sometimes inadequately briefed.

Yours faithfully,
SIDNEY ATKINS,
7 Park View Road,
Heaton,
Bradford, West Yorkshire.
February 21.

Australia's birthright

From Mr Jack Ashley, MP for Stoke-on-Trent South (Labour) and Sir Richard Body, MP for Holland with Boston (Conservative)

Sir, The Australian Prime Minister's article (February 22) was both a timely and persuasive reminder of the importance to Australia of securing one of the two originals of their Constitution Act.

Bob Hawke referred to his meeting at Westminster last June with the Anzac (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) Group of MPs and peers. The group saw the importance to Australia of the request made for our support in obtaining an original for them. It is to be hoped that the Government will do nothing to impede the progress of the Bill introduced by our chairman, Alf Morris, which has all-party support, to enable Australia to have its constitutional birthright.

Yours faithfully,
JACK ASHLEY,
RICHARD BODY
(Vice-Chairman, Anzac Group),
House of Commons.
February 22.

Preliminary heat

From the Reverend Ian Gaskell
Sir, Kevin Saunders, of the Green Party, deserves our sympathy for being selected "to run against" Mr Sebastian Coe, for nomination for the Falmouth and Camborne constituency (report, February 20).

Perhaps here is an example for the introduction of a new form of grammatical usage when an athlete becomes a prospective parliamentary candidate.

Yours,
IAN GASKELL,
The Vicarage,
62 Whitcombe Road,
Cocklehaton, West Yorkshire.
February 20.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01782 5946).

Uncertain future of film archive

From Mr James Quinn
Sir, I have read with concern Oscar Moore's article (February 15) about plans to "bulldoze" the National Film Institute, to the extent that it may lose its identity as the cornerstone of the British Film Institute.

The NFA, the life work of the late Ernest Lindgren and his dedicated colleagues, has been known as the "role model", as your correspondent puts it, for over 50 years for film archives throughout the world. Between 1955 and 1957 the Government sought, in effect, to close down the BFI except for the archive, and it was especially important therefore that time to emphasise the interdependence of the archive and the other departments of the BFI.

Times have changed, however, and to divert the NFA today of its special standing and limited autonomy could be harmful to the institute as well as the archive. Increased and easier access to archive material and "greater streamlining" should be possible without "restructuring" the NFA on the lines proposed.

"Longer term profitability", if this were to depend on the sale of copyright in films the NFA does not own, would certainly lead, as Mr Moore observes, to the withdrawal of prints by the real owners. When the late Luciano Visconti made me a personal gift of an uncut version of his celebrated film, *La Terra Trema*, at the Venice Festival many years ago, I did not hesitate to present

the film in turn to the NFA. I might not do so today.

It may well be that changes in the administration of the NFA are needed, but the proposals adumbrated in your article suggest that important issues of policy are also involved. The Governors of the BFI will no doubt consider the implications of such changes before any decision is taken.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES QUINN (Director,
British Film Institute, 1955-64),
Crescent Cottage,
108 Marine Parade,
Brighton, East Sussex.

From Lady Elton
Sir, The new director of the British Film Institute, Mr Wilf Stevenson, must be under the baleful influence of the *Zeitgeist* with his plans to exploit and market the resources of the National Film Archive for "enterprise culture".

Mr Stevenson would be well advised to read the article in *The Times* of September 26, 1961, suggesting that the NFA, richly replete with source material for history, should take its rightful place with eminent libraries, museums and art galleries.

The archive's continuing excellence is largely due to David Francis, whose premature retirement will be a disastrous loss to scholarship and to the status of archives. Historical records do not constitute an industry, not least when many of them are held on loan, or without copyright, and are hence not "marketable".

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET ELTON,
The Court, Clevedon, Somerset.

The "documentary" film, we might not have lost most of his television series, *This Wonderful World*, or the BBC's audio presentation of the 1969 moon land; or ITV's first opera production, Britten's *The Turn of the Screw*. Such losses are tragic.

The need for adequate funding to record a proportion of our daily television output, off-air, should parallel our concern for preserving the environment. If a city without old buildings is like an old man without a memory, a nation which destroys its television history is a nation blind to its own experience.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN CHITTOCK, Chairman,
The Grierson Memorial Trust,
37 Gower Street, W.C1.
February 22.

CPS funding

From Mr Robyn Dasey
Sir, Your leading article, "Prosecution in the dock" (February 20) brings to public attention many of the problems of the Crown Prosecution Service, for which we, as the union representing CPS lawyers, have been actively seeking redress since the service was launched in 1986. I refer particularly to the uncompetitive low salaries and unsatisfactory career structure which precludes the recruitment and retention of sufficient lawyers of quality.

The Treasury has consistently blocked the improvement necessary to rectify this position. An outstanding example of this is the new career structure which the

CPS wishes to implement. The Treasury has finally endorsed this in principle but is refusing to provide the necessary extra funding.

This is symptomatic of a general problem within government service. The Treasury controls the financing of government departments without bearing the responsibility for their management or quality of service. The role of the Treasury and not simply the department should be under public scrutiny.

Yours sincerely,
ROBYN DASEY
(Assistant General Secretary),
FDA (Association of First Division Civil Servants),
8 Caxton Street, SW1.
February 21.

Victories on ice

From Mr Dennis L. Bird
Sir, There was indeed "great satisfaction" in 1952 ("On This Day", February 21) when Jeanette Altwegg won the Olympic figure-skating gold medal for Britain. Ever more gratifying, perhaps, was her subsequent decision to turn down all lucrative offers of a professional career. Instead, she took a lowly-paid but socially valuable job as a house mother at the Pestalozzi village for refugee children.

She now has another claim to fame. Having won the world skating title in 1951, she saw her daughter, Cristina Wirtz, become world curling champion in 1983. I know of no other instance of mother and daughter being world champions in different sports, in which ice rinks are the only common factor.

Yours sincerely,
DENNIS L. BIRD
(Archivist/Historian),
National Skating Association of Great Britain,
15-27 Great Street, E.C1.
February 21.

Archaeology guidance

From the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department of the Environment

Sir, It is a shame that Mr Richard Hughes (February 19) did not first check with my department whether there had been consultation with the development industry over the proposed guidance on archaeology and planning. Had he done so, we could have told him that the document, which has now been issued, is a draft for public consultation, for the very purpose of ensuring that the views of all interested parties can be considered carefully before the guidance is finalised.

Copies have been sent to over 80 organisations representing local planning authorities, developers, archaeologists, amenity groups and property owners; comments are invited by May 25. Any one not on the initial consultation list is welcome to obtain a copy, free of charge, from my officials in Room C11/05 at 2 Marsham Street.

Yours sincerely,
HESKETH,
Department of the Environment,
2 Marsham Street, SW1.
February 22.

Seeking widows of Gallipoli

From the General Secretary of the Royal British Legion

Sir, On April 25, ministers, senior officers, and Service representatives from the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and France will join the ranks of veterans and relatives to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Gallipoli landings at Cape Helles and the Anzac beaches.

Although we lost some 36,000 soldiers and sailors in the bitterly fought nine-month campaign, one of the remarkable events was the successful withdrawal of all Allied troops from the Gallipoli Peninsula without a single loss of life.

The Royal British Legion will be taking a party of close relatives, including brothers, sisters, sons and daughters of men buried in the 31 Commonwealth War Grave Commission cemeteries. Our party will also include veterans who fought in the 1915 campaign; additionally there will be a doctor, nurse, and escorts accompanying the group.

The "Anzacs" will celebrate the anniversary of their first "blood-ing" with a dawn service on April 25 and will later, in company with all other visiting nations, attend the international service at the Turkish National Memorial. Then, at midday, the British, Australian, and New Zealand parties will hold services at their respective memorials.

The Legion administers the Ministry of Defence grant for war widows and there are still two vacancies available on our pilgrimage. If any of your readers know of a widow who lost her husband at Gallipoli and would like to visit his grave, I would be most grateful if you could put them in touch with me.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP CRESAY,
General Secretary,
The Royal British Legion,
48 Pall Mall, SW1.
February 16.

Rudolf Hess affair

From Mr Hugh Thomas

Sir, Mr Roy Davies (February 23) forgot to mention that *Timewatch* had only translated four paragraphs of an 11-page document. Readers may be interested to know that the actual document contained medical evidence of a near-fatal, high-velocity gunshot wound through the chest, with massive blood loss in the lung substance and pleural cavity and a collapsed, consolidated lung which remained grossly affected, even four months later, at the time of Hess's discharge from hospital.

Mr Davies was sent a full and accurate translation of the documents by Dr A. R. Meier, of Manchester, and by Cardiff University, as well as reports from consultant chest physicians and pathologists, which stated categorically that the changes described were not only gross and permanent, but could not be missed at post mortem even by an inexperienced pathologist.

The *Timewatch* programme failed to include my delighted account of the documents. More seriously, they failed to include the excellent post-mortem photographs of the entrance and exit sites which clearly showed only a pin prick, but no gunshot wound.

Yours sincerely,
HUGH THOMAS
(Consultant surgeon),
Prince Charles Hospital,
Merthyr Tydfil,
Mid Glamorgan.
February 22.

Kidney donor cards

From the President of the British Kidney Patient Association

Sir, Some 1,200 kidney patients die in this country every year because no treatment is made available for them.

A recent Gallup survey commissioned by the British Kidney Patient Association showed that whilst 72 per cent of the adult population were willing for their organs to be used after death, only 23 per cent actually carried a donor card.

Is it too much to ask that we see ourselves and our loved ones, not as potential donors but as potential recipients? I am confident, if we could, that donor organs would become available to all who need them.

Yours etc.,
ELIZABETH WARD, President,
British Kidney Patient Association,
Bordon, Hampshire.

celebrate New Year's Eve in the Scottish fashion. Having found a beggier, and mindful of the level of noise permitted in Geneva apartments, I was curious to know how he managed to practise. It appeared that this was carried out in the underground car park of the Bucl block of flats.

Yours faithfully,
SHEILA STIRLING,
67d Shooters Hill Road,
Blackheath, SE3.
February 14.

From Mr Malcolm Rogers

Sir, I have recently returned from a pipers' convention on the Isle of Skye. Imagine my surprise one morning, when, on entering a room full of 30 or so pipers all tuning their drones or practising their pibrochs, I noticed one piper not playing. Instead, he was reading *The Times*.

Yours sincerely,
MALCOLM ROGERS,
2 Temple Road, N8.
February 20.

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BENNETT - On February 16th...
FINCH - On February 17th...
HANDCOCK - On February 22nd...
MCCARTNEY - On February 21st...
PERCIVAL - On February 19th...
SMITH - On February 21st...
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Anniversaries

Today BIRTHS: Charles Le Brun...
Tomorrow BIRTHS: Carol Goldoni...

Church services tomorrow

Quinquagesima - On Thursday...
Quinquagesima - On Thursday...
Quinquagesima - On Thursday...

Birthdays

Today Professor E. Boyland...
Tomorrow Mr John Arlton...

Funeral service

Mr Arthur Sheffeld - On Thursday...
Mr Arthur Sheffeld - On Thursday...

Service dinners

Royal Engineers - On Thursday...
Royal Engineers - On Thursday...

ON THIS DAY 1968

democracy - The initial impact of the political and intellectual life of Prague has been dramatic.

BREATH OF FREEDOM

PRAGUE, FEB 23 - One can assume a good deal of dismay behind the usually expressionless faces of the communist leaders who are in Prague to celebrate the anniversary of the communist takeover.

SCIENCE REPORT

Growing reality of greenhouse effect

A succession of mild winters and freak storms is causing much speculation that the consequences of the greenhouse effect are already upon us.

SCIENCE REPORT

Growing reality of greenhouse effect

There is a scientific consensus that a greenhouse effect will eventually make itself felt as more greenhouse gases are emitted into the atmosphere.

SCIENCE REPORT

Growing reality of greenhouse effect

One surprise is that temperature changes happen before rather than after changes in carbon dioxide levels.

SCIENCE REPORT

Growing reality of greenhouse effect

Philip Ball - A dinner dance with the theme "300 years of dance music" is to be held at Guildhall on March 15 in aid of CRISIS, part of the Lord Mayor's Charity Appeal.

SUNDAY'S TELEVISION AND RADIO

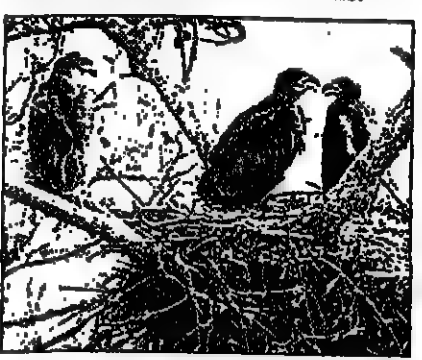
Compiled by Peter Dear and Gillian Maxey

Ruffling nature's feathers

TELEVISION CHOICE

Peter Waymark

Not a single human being is to be seen in the first episode of *Land of the Eagle* (BBC2, 7.15pm), yet, paradoxically, this lavish eight-part series about the natural history of North America is as much about the people of the continent as the flora and fauna. Starting with the English settlement of Virginia at the end of the 16th century, the programme looks at how both the native Indians and the European settlers were conditioned by the natural environment. It also brings out the essential difference. While the Indians believed that man belonged to the land, the settlers felt themselves superior to nature and set about changing it. Fortunate that the world of the wilderness encountered by Sir Walter Raleigh's colonists is still to be found today, the cameras can plausibly reconstruct the Virginia of 400 years ago. As always, the camerawork is superb, getting in much closer than the naked eye ever could. Among many visual treats are eagles, herons and giant salamanders, while the obligatory mating sequence is devoted to the intimate habits of the blue crab.



Visual treat: a bird's eye view of a bald eagle and her young (BBC2, 7.15pm)

RADIO CHOICE

Peter Davalle

One by one, Radio 3 is ticking off the century's virtuoso pianists. In recent weeks alone, there have been Rubinstein and Moschevitch profiles and recitals. Now, it's the turn of Myra Hess to get the full treatment, starting today with John Lucas's words-and-music edition *To Get a Little Closer to the Truth* (6.15pm, FM), and continuing on Tuesday (2.00pm) with two hours of her recordings including *...need I say it?* - *Jess, Joy of Man's Daring*, and *Beethoven's Op. 109*, authoritatively declared this afternoon to be the quintessence of Hess's Beethoven playing. Meanwhile, the Moschevitch season continues, not only on Radio 3 (7.35pm) but spilling over to Radio 4 with the re-broadcast of *A Winning Head* (10.15pm), Roger Nichols's portrait of the keyboard master.

BBC 1

8.45 Open University
8.55 Playdays (r) 8.15 Articles of Faith: *Craids in the Community* (r)
9.30 This Is the Day. A simple religious service from a viewer's point of view in Friesland, Chestonia
10.00 Bazaar (r) 10.25 Buongiorno Italia (r)
10.50 Europeans. Chantal Cui reports on television and crime (r) 11.20 Spelling It Out. Steps to improving spelling (r) 11.30 Step Up to Word Power. For adults with reading and writing difficulties. (Ceebox)
11.55 Snap! Get your photograph taken (r) 12.05 See Hear Magazine for the deaf and hard-of-hearing
12.30 Country File. Ian Breach reports on the extent of the Soviet Union's environmental disasters 12.55 Weather
1.00 News with Moira Stuart followed by On the Record. On the Road to Nowhere? Jonathan Dimbleby talks to Transport Secretary Cecil Parkinson about the Government's extensive road building plans to combat increasing levels of congestion and how he sees this as being compatible with their policy to address the worsening pollution problem, when one of the main offenders is the motor car
2.00 EastEnders (r). (Ceebox)
3.00 Film: *HMS Defiant* (1962) starring Dirk Bogarde, Anthony Quayle and Alec Guinness. His Majesty's Ship Defiant an 18th-century mutiny during the naval war against Napoleon. Directed by Lewis Gilbert 4.35 Bugs Bunny (r)
5.00 The Ceebox Show. Includes Seena Scott reporting on the controversy surrounding the Multi-Fibre Arrangement, signed in 1974 to restrict the import of Third World textiles into Britain, which expires in 1991
5.30 Antiques Roadshow from Mainz, Sweden. (Ceebox)
6.15 It Doesn't Have To Hurt. Painless exercise with Jane Whitfield. (Ceebox)
6.25 News with Moira Stuart. Weather
6.40 Songs of Praise from St Margaret's Church, Westminster. (Ceebox)
7.15 Don't Wait Up. Comedy series starring Tony Britton and Nigel Havers as father and son medical men practising at opposite ends of the patient spectrum. (Ceebox)
7.45 Bergamot Under Wraps. A retired scientist holds a career nursing home to ransom for a million pounds. (Ceebox)
8.40 Mashed. The specialist subjects are the travels of Eric Newby; the life and career of Johnnie Oliver; the life and times of Sir Robert Peel; and the complex novels of Margery Allingham
8.10 That's a Little Consumer Affairs series
8.55 News with Michael Buerk
10.10 Everyman: Chilling Out. Anthony Lamm is an actor specializing in black roles because of his colour - despite the fact that he was born in London's Kilburn of Irish parents. With the help of his actor and extra colleagues and friends, he creates a provocative production about what it means to be black in Britain today
11.00 Dear John (USA). American comedy series starring Jack Hirschorn. Clean Slate. Includes a report on the debate over schools opting out of the state system (r)
11.55 The Match. Cricket. Tony Lewis presents highlights of the second day's play in the first Test between West Indies and England in Jamaica
12.30 News 12.05am (r)
1.05 Weather

ITV/LONDON

8.00 TV-am begins with Good Morning Moments. United Kingdom. 8.30 News. 8.45 News. 9.00 News. 9.15 News. 9.30 News. 9.45 News. 10.00 News. 10.15 News. 10.30 News. 10.45 News. 11.00 News. 11.15 News. 11.30 News. 11.45 News. 12.00 News. 12.15 News. 12.30 News. 12.45 News. 1.00 News. 1.15 News. 1.30 News. 1.45 News. 2.00 News. 2.15 News. 2.30 News. 2.45 News. 3.00 News. 3.15 News. 3.30 News. 3.45 News. 4.00 News. 4.15 News. 4.30 News. 4.45 News. 5.00 News. 5.15 News. 5.30 News. 5.45 News. 6.00 News. 6.15 News. 6.30 News. 6.45 News. 7.00 News. 7.15 News. 7.30 News. 7.45 News. 8.00 News. 8.15 News. 8.30 News. 8.45 News. 9.00 News. 9.15 News. 9.30 News. 9.45 News. 10.00 News. 10.15 News. 10.30 News. 10.45 News. 11.00 News. 11.15 News. 11.30 News. 11.45 News. 12.00 News. 12.15 News. 12.30 News. 12.45 News. 1.00 News. 1.15 News. 1.30 News. 1.45 News. 2.00 News. 2.15 News. 2.30 News. 2.45 News. 3.00 News. 3.15 News. 3.30 News. 3.45 News. 4.00 News. 4.15 News. 4.30 News. 4.45 News. 5.00 News. 5.15 News. 5.30 News. 5.45 News. 6.00 News. 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Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar
1.7065 (-0.0090)
W German mark
2.8635 (+0.0003)
Exchange index
90.2 (-0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1762.3 (-27.5)
FT-SE 100
2236.7 (-32.5)
USM (Datastream)
150.89 (-1.17)

Market report, page 20

Shares fall
after drop
in Tokyo

Shares in London fell heavily yesterday following the 930-point overnight drop in Tokyo. At one point, the FT-SE 100 index was down by more than 40 points with most leading shares showing heavy declines.

But, helped by a firmer-than-expected opening on Wall Street, dealers recovered some of their nerve. By the close at 5.00 pm, the FT-SE 100 index was down by 32.5 points, with the FT 30 index 26.2 down at 1,762.3. End-of-account trading helped to lift volume to 467.7 million shares.

However, dealers are not convinced that the worst is over and attention is once again focusing on what Tokyo will do next week. The fear is that while London and New York have twice partly defied Tokyo's downward pull, they may not be able to do so again.

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STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2882.84 (-11.88)
Tokyo	Nikkei Average	3480.97 (-935.87)
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	2864.51 (-33.81)
Amsterdam	Amex	108.6 (-1.8)
Brussels	Brux 100	1580.1 (-37.5)
Frankfurt	DAX	1789.84 (-30.51)
General	FT 30	1762.3 (-27.5)
Paris	CAC	404.84 (-10.7)
Zurich	SIX	801.2 (-8.1)
London	FT 30	1762.3 (-27.5)
FT 100	FT 100	2236.7 (-32.5)
FT 30	FT 30	1762.3 (-27.5)
FT 100	FT 100	2236.7 (-32.5)
FT 30	FT 30	1762.3 (-27.5)
FT 100	FT 100	2236.7 (-32.5)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

ROSE:		
Pratt & Whitney	808p	(+12p)
W R Hambro	577p	(+46p)
FALLS:		
Color Group	320p	(-20p)
Glaxo	689p	(-13p)
News Corp	445p	(-15p)
Guinness	637p	(-14p)
Carlton Comm	738p	(-13p)
Thomson Corp	725p	(-30p)
RHM	383p	(-14p)
Body Shop	520p	(-30p)
Unilever	320p	(-40p)
Saatchi & Saatchi	138p	(-46p)
Daejan	725p	(-20p)
Candover	212p	(-15p)
Sorbus	142p	(-25p)
Microfilm Repro	220p	(-15p)
Strong & Fisher	55p	(-12p)
Hawker Siddeley	603p	(-16p)
Presidio	422p	(-20p)
Brit Aerospace	487p	(-14p)
4pm prices		2838
SEAO Volume		487.7m

INTEREST RATES

London:	Bank Base	15%
3-month Interbank	15.5%	15.5%
3-month Treasury	14.75%	14.75%
US Prime	10%	
Federal Funds	8 1/4%	
3-month Treasury	7.89-7.98%	
30-year bonds	9 1/2-9 5/8%	

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: \$1.7065	\$: £0.5861
£: DM2.8635	DM: £0.3493
£: Sfr2.5213	Sfr: £0.3965
£: FF5.6851	FF: £0.1759
£: Yen20.51	Yen: £0.0487
£: Index: 90.2	Index: 90.2
ECU 20.714304	SDR 20.778488
ECU 1.399984	SDR 1.287888

GOLD

London:	AM \$415.00 pm \$415.85
close	\$415.75-416.25 (\$243.75-244.25)
New York:	Comex \$416.80-417.30*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Apr) ...	\$19.20 bbl (\$19.45)
* Denotes latest trading price	

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia	20.85	19.75
Austria	62.50	58.70
Belgium	2.12	2.02
Canada	11.45	10.85
Denmark	7.25	6.95
France	16.11	15.47
Germany	2.59	2.51
Greece	253.50	247.50
Hong Kong	13.50	12.85
Ireland	1.13	1.03
Italy	2215	2085
Japan	265	248
Netherlands	3.35	3.17
Norway	11.53	10.87
Portugal	254	248
Spain	4.85	4.25
Sweden	10.95	10.25
Switzerland	2.85	2.47
Turkey	4025	3925
USA	1.70	1.65
Yugoslavia	refer	refer

Figures worse than expected after bad debt provisions

Lloyds Bank plunges to £715m loss

By Neil Bennett

Lloyds Bank plunged to a loss of £715 million last year, from pre-tax profits of £952 million in 1988, after making a £1.76 billion provision against its Third World debt.

"It is absolutely no pleasure that we are presenting a very large loss for the second time in three years," said Sir Jeremy Morse, the chairman.

The bank is raising its full year dividend to 13.5p, up 19 per cent. Lloyds shares, however, fell 9p to 287p.

The fall was even worse than expected because of a 190 per cent rise to £345 million in provisions against other bad debts.

These included an international provision of £147 million, up from £61 million, because of a rising number of defaults and company failures in Australia.

The provisions also include an unspecified amount for legal costs and compensation to Abbey National after Lloyds Registrars' problems with the share flotation last summer.

The business has been re-organized, but the bank said it had not taken any disciplinary action. Mr Glyn Jones, the chief registrar, was replaced late last year.

Sir Jeremy said that the bank had provided fully for the year ahead. "We anticipate that there is going to be

turbulence at home and overseas and we have gone through the books very carefully," he added.

The Third World provisions increased from only £53 million in 1988, and included £138 million in unpaid interest. Lloyds has now provided for 83 per cent of longer-term debt, the highest in the sector.

But the provisions reduced the bank's risk asset ratios from 10.1 to 7.4 per cent, below the minimum 8 per cent demanded by the Bank of England. However, Sir Jeremy said that the ratio had recovered to 9 per cent after recent asset sales, including its £190 million stake in Yorkshire Bank.

Attributable profits from British banking slowed sharply to £242 million in the second half, compared with £322 million at the interim stage, and Sir Jeremy sounded a warning about the bank's prospects this year.

He said: "We should be prepared for things to be a bit harder, not softer, although there is a lot to harvest in our UK banking business. It is a winter's day, but there is quite a lot of warmth in the sunshine."

Retail banking profits were also hit by a two-thirds fall in profits from credit cards to £11 million.

The card operation went into losses at the end of the

year, when Lloyds decided to impose an annual fee, although it is returning to profit again now. A fifth of Lloyds' three million Access customers cut up and returned their cards in protest against the fee, although the bank said there was no net loss in cardholders, since many had applied for the new Visa payment cards.

The figures included a first contribution from Lloyds Abbey Life, its 58 per cent subsidiary, where pre-tax profits fell 3 per cent to £295 million. The figures were hit by a £15.7 million downturn at the Black Horse estate agency chain to a £4 million loss. The group closed 77 of its 563 branches during the year.

The loss was offset by strong growth in Black Horse Financial Services, which sold 125,000 policies to Lloyds Bank customers in the year, and is planning to treble its sale force to 300 this year.

With Midland and National Westminster already providing £990 million and £846 million in their figures, Third World debt has cost Britain's financial institutions almost £3.6 billion this week.

During the year, Lloyds sold \$528 million of its debts at an average discount of 39 per cent. The company's total problem debt, however, rose by per cent to £4.24 billion, while provisions now total £3.05 billion.



'Absolutely no pleasure': Sir Jeremy Morse, reflecting yesterday on Lloyds' plunge into loss

Doubts over Courage pub deal

By David Tweed and Robert Cockburn, Sydney and Michael Tate, London

Grand Metropolitan said yesterday it is talking with other parties and looking at alternatives to the public houses/breweries swap with Elders IXL of Australia, as the political row concerning Mr John Elliott, the Elders chairman, erupted in Australia.

The row would also appear to have delayed the Elders placing of its 23 per cent of Scottish & Newcastle Breweries, which has been ordered by the Monopolies Commission by the end of June.

Mr Elliott has begun proceedings for defamation against Mr Bob Hawke, the Australian prime minister. At a business lunch in Melbourne Mr Elliott, who is also president of the opposition Liberal party, launched a campaign to clear his name.

In a writ filed in the Victorian Supreme Court, Mr Elliott said Mr Hawke had been motivated by "express malice" when making comments about him and an alleged National Crime Authority investigation into two of his companies.

The writs follow reports on the Australian ABC television and ABC radio that the NCA is investigating the takeover of Elders IXL by Harlin, a private company controlled by Mr Elliott.

Elders, which controls the Courage breweries and public houses in Britain, reported that high interest rates, a strong Australian dollar and Aus\$123 million (£55.16 million) of abnormal losses cut the equity-consolidated earnings for the six months to December by 46 per cent to Aus\$163.9 million from Aus\$305.4 million.

Mr Elliott described the results for the brewing, pastoral and agribusiness conglomerate as "disappointing but explainable."

Shareholders can opt for an unfranked interim dividend of Aus\$5 cents a share, a 4 per cent improvement on the previous corresponding period, adjusted for bonus issues, or a Aus\$98 cents payout franked to 31.37 per cent.

Agribusiness profits fell from Aus\$74.3 million to Aus\$30.6 million but reversed a loss made in the six months to June 30. Finance division pre-tax profit fell from Aus\$51.3 million to Aus\$25.5 million.

Saatchi 'unlikely to reach £65m'

By Stephen Leather

Saatchi and Saatchi, the advertising group, yesterday admitted that profits were unlikely to match expectations of about £65 million this year.

Mr Robert Louis-Dreyfus, the chief executive, said it was clear the industry faced a difficult year. But, Saatchi remained "very confident in the underlying strength of the communications business."

The statement was released

after the shares tumbled 44p to 138p amid fears over Saatchi's financial position. The group was also hit by the news that shareholders had served a lawsuit in a Los Angeles court alleging that investors had been misled over the value of their holdings.

Saatchi shares have been falling steadily. From just under 350p last October, they were about 220p last week.

Southeastern Asset Man-

agement, the US investment group, has been using the weakness to boost its stake. Mr Louis-Dreyfus said he had been told informally the group had acquired a further 2 per cent, for a total 13.2 per cent.

The shares were hit by the annual report this week, in which Mr Maurice Saatchi, chairman, said the group was cautious about the short term. In 1989, Saatchi made pre-tax profits of £21.8 million versus

£138.0 million in 1988. Brokers were also worried about Saatchi's convertible bonds due in the year 2003.

In Los Angeles, Saatchi and Saatchi Company was charged in a shareholder lawsuit with making misleading public statements to artificially inflate the price of the shares and Saatchi American Depository Receipts. The suit seeks unspecified compensatory damages. Market report, page 20

Volvo and Renault form trucks giant

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Renault, the French state-owned car and trucks producer, is linking with Volvo, Sweden's car and trucks maker, to produce a force with a claim to be the world's biggest producer of commercial vehicles. It will have a combined turnover of more than £25 billion.

Renault ranks ninth among car makers world-wide with Volvo 22nd, but together they leap to fourth biggest for sales values behind General Motors, Ford and Toyota. The combined force would have a 12.5 per cent share of the West European market where it would jump from sixth to fourth place behind Volkswagen, Fiat and Peugeot.

Renault, with its US associate Mack Truck, was fourth largest maker of commercial vehicles internationally while Volvo was in the top 10. The

new combination is now claimed to push Daimler-Benz into second position.

A series of share cross-holdings will stitch the companies together. Each is taking a 45 per cent stake in the other's trucks and bus operations. The cars line is a 25 per cent cross-holding.

Volvo said the alliance would cost it about SKr 23 billion (£2.2 billion) while Renault would pay about SKr 11 billion for its stakes. Renault may also buy 10 per cent of the equity of AB Volvo, the main parent company. Volvo may take a 5 per cent stake in the main Renault company.

The key gains are expected to come from co-ordinating development programmes, purchasing operations and investment plans. Manufacturing and branding will remain separate.

Demand for pilots could push Oxford Airport tag above £20m

Price of flying school ready to soar

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Soaring world demand for pilots to fly the thousands of additional commercial aircraft due to join airline fleets over the next 10 years is expected to lead to a massive premium on the price of Britain's leading private flying training school which goes up for sale next week.

The Oxford Air Training School at Kidlington, near Oxford, together with its associated engineering and aircraft sales and leasing companies, is being sold by the family of the late Mr Murray McLean. Lloyds Merchant Bank, acting on behalf of the McLean family trust, expects bids of more than £20 million for the airport from airlines, aviation engineering consortia or even wealthy individuals with an interest in flying.

Details of the group - Oxford Airport Holdings Ltd - will be sent out this weekend and the winner is expected to be announced within the next two months.

The principal trading subsidiary of OAHLS is CSE Aviation which in the year to December made a profit of £1.95 million on a turnover of £23.4 million.

In the last year the Oxford Air Training School trained more than 150 commercial pilots for either the commercial pilot's licence or the air transport pilot licence in courses lasting for more than a year. Airlines around the world have booked nearly every one of the 200 places available each year for the next three years and pay about £55,000 a time for the training which is recognized as among the best in the world.

The school has recently signed a joint venture with an American company to set up another training school in Florida so students will be able to take advantage of better weather in the United States to complete their flying training.

The school also trains helicopter pilots and engineers and employs instructors

recruited mainly from the armed forces. Other subsidiaries include the engineering and spares division which is one of the largest general aviation parts suppliers in Europe and Aircraft Sales and Leasing which specializes in sales of small light aircraft and customized private jets.

Mr Alan Youdell is the executive chairman and Lord Waterpark is deputy chairman and chief executive. The whole operation employs more than 400 people. It is possible that they might mount a management buyout, but the training school is thought more likely to be of interest to such airlines as British Airways, British Midland or Virgin Atlantic, whose chairman, Mr Richard Branson, lives nearby.

Foreign companies are also expected to show interest in the school as it would provide them with a guaranteed flow of both pilots and engineers.

Nursing Homes Increasing Demand Guaranteed

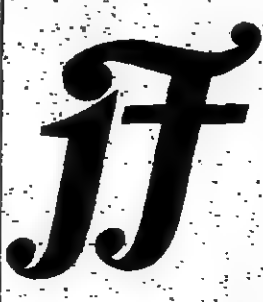
by Charles Fry

Few markets allow demand to be estimated with any accuracy over the next ten years. The business of running nursing homes is one of these.

The reason is that the age profile of the population is a known fact and, fairly obviously, people get older. Although the 65 to 85 age group is expected to remain numerically at today's levels for the next ten years, the 85's and over are expected to increase by nearly 50%. In this latter age group, approximately 23% are in some form of residential care.

The industry also benefits from the twin security of being based on bricks and mortar and enjoys the financial support of the Health and Local Authorities, who underwrite the charges made to many of the home's residents.

There are about 14,000 registered residential and nursing homes with an average of fourteen bedrooms each. Financially it often pays to buy a small home (say twelve bedrooms) and double its size. This gives an immediate "development profit" and has all the usual benefits of economy of scale.



Values of nursing homes, which are often converted from large private houses, tend to rise in line with residential property, although for the period 1985 to 1988 they rose on average 80%, which was somewhat above the House Price Index rise.

The market (in line with residential property) has softened recently and with the impact of high interest rates, now is a good time to buy. Probably the simplest and least risky way to invest in nursing homes is via shares in a Business Expansion Scheme ("BES") company managed by an experienced operator. With up to 40% tax relief on your initial investment and no Capital Gains Tax on sale (provided you hold the shares for five years), it is hard to beat this way of taking an interest in the nursing home industry.

To find out more, contact the country's leading BES sponsor, Johnson Fry, who have raised over £220 million for BES investments. Ask for their free "Investor's Guide to BES" by telephoning 01321 0220 or writing to them at 20 Regent Street, London SW1Y 4PZ.

Johnson Fry Corporate Finance Limited

صكنا من الأهل

Globe ends 55-year link by selling Electra stake

By Jeremy Andrews

Globe Investment Trust has severed a 55-year association by selling its 26 per cent stake in Electra Investment Trust, which specializes in unquoted equity, for £101 million.

Globe has made an underwritten offer of the shares to its own shareholders at 260p, and Electra fell 20p to 266p after the announcement.

Mr David Hardy, chairman, said Globe had been building up its own portfolio of unquoted investments over the past three years.

He said: "We needed to reduce our over-large holding in Electra and we believe we did the fairest thing by offering it to our own shareholders."

It really isn't necessary for an investment trust to have a major holding in another."

One Electra share is offered for every 13.75 in Globe and for every £5.66 nominal of Globe convertible stock. The offer has been underwritten by Barings. The Coal Board pension funds, which hold 29 per cent of Globe, are taking up their full entitlement.

Globe was incorporated in 1873 to enable small investors to buy a portfolio of shares in cable companies. Its 42,000 individual shareholders own 30 per cent of the equity. It set up Electra Investment Trust in 1935 and four years after Electra's flotation in 1976,

Globe reduced its stake from 74 per cent to 26 per cent.

Electra has not always taken the same view about unquoted investments as Globe and last year did not take part in the Gateway offer by Iscoses, of which Globe was one of the four founding shareholders.

However, Mr Hardy denied there was any fundamental disagreement between Globe and Electra. He said Globe had invested £25 million in Electra Private Equity Partners, Electra's new £486 million fund, and had taken a 5 per cent stake in Electra Kingsway Managers, its management company.

By December, 1989, un-

listed investments amounted to £185 million of Globe's £1.23 billion portfolio and it intended to raise the proportion to 20 per cent. Meanwhile, the proceeds could be invested in Britain to produce a yield of 15 per cent, considerably better than the 3 per cent yield on Electra shares. The offer price represented a 20 per cent discount to Electra's current net asset value.

Mr Michael Bentley, Electra's deputy chairman, said Globe's disposal of the stake was entirely to be expected. The setback to Electra's share price resulted from the timing of the offer on a day when the market was weak.

LWT sees fainter revenue picture

JOHN CHAPMAN



Outlook flat: Christopher Bland, chairman of LWT Holdings, announcing the company's figures for 17 months

Mr Christopher Bland, the chairman of LWT (Holdings), the London Weekend television contractor, which obtained shareholder approval for a radical capital reorganization last November, expects a flat revenue outlook for the rest of the year (Philip Pangalos writes).

Growth in the final quarter of 1989 was about 2 per cent, and this was followed by a reasonable January, although February and March are likely to show a sharp year-on-year decline. Pre-tax profits rose to £45.03 million in the 17-month period to end-December, from £15 million in the previous 12 months. The shares reacted with a 3p fall to 82p.

LWT said the staff and cost reductions are beginning to have a favourable effect

on the group's margins and profits. An exceptional £3.4 million has been charged for redundancy and retirement costs, with staff numbers now 28 per cent down at 409 compared with August 1987.

There was an extraordinary gain of £19.4 million from the sale of LWT's interest in the ITP, the publisher of TV Times, and in Century Hobbies.

The company announced a second interim dividend of 60p, making 62.45p for the 17-month period, paid in connection with the capital reorganization. No other dividend will be paid. Pre-tax earnings per share rose to 31.4p before exceptional items and to 29p after them.

Last October the company reported pre-tax profits for the year to end-July up

33 per cent to £30.8 million, boosted by increased advertising revenue in the television company, which was up 14 per cent, and improved operating margins.

At last November's extraordinary meeting, 82 per cent of LWT's shareholders voted in favour of a financial restructuring, which could make paper millionaires of several LWT staff.

Turnover for the 17 months was £351.3 million, which includes £49.7 million network income from the barter scheme in operation in 1988, compared with £223 million for the 12 months to end-July 1988, and £100 million for the five months to end-December 1988. The Exchange levy is down from £9.94 million to £1.27 million.

Saving grace that could make the grey Chancellor's name



KENNETH FLEET

Amid the encircling gloom there is a ray of light. In recent weeks sterling has improved, and has a more solid look. This is one up to the new Chancellor of the Exchequer. Rightly he accepts that a collapsing currency would reduce virtually to nil the Government's chances of bringing down inflation and winning the next election. In its turn the foreign exchange market has accepted John Major's word that he will support sterling with high interest rates as long as it is necessary.

This might be until the end of this year, though I doubt it. The signs are that the regime of dear money is having the prescribed effect of slowing domestic demand. The Chancellor would be foolish to relax his grip too soon. It would, for example, take only a one-point cut in bank base rates to turn the housing market round. When it comes to raising voters' spirits in advance of a possible general election in the first half of 1991, timing is all.

The near-term prospect for the Retail Price Index looks grim. However it is analysed, the deal to settle the ambulance dispute shows, yet again, where wage inflation is mainly generated—in the public sector. The latest round of mortgage rate increases, the Community Charge, gas, electricity and water charges and higher indirect taxes in next month's Budget would raise the RPI to 8½ per cent. If that happens inflation at the year-end will be embarrassingly above the Treasury forecast of 5½ per cent and the economic cycle would still be out of phase with the political.

Mr Major has promised his Cabinet colleagues a "cautious and prudent" Budget. It would obviously be prudent for him not to raise all, or most, excise duties in line with inflation, an option his predecessor took last year. Increases in tobacco, spirits and leaded petrol duties are easily defended on health and environmental grounds but the rest will probably be left alone.

Cautious demands there should be no

relaxation of fiscal policy, which would mean no net reduction in taxation in order to maintain the projected Budget surplus at or near the 1989-90 level. If the Chancellor wanted only a balanced Budget he would be in a position to chop the basic rate of income tax from 25p to 18p. Pigs might fly.

Every Budget since 1982 has included an effective reduction in income tax (or National Insurance contributions which amount to the same thing), a sequence Mr Major will be reluctant to break. It would be feeble of him to argue that separate taxation of husbands and wives, which is expected to cost the Exchequer up to £1 billion, counts as this year's income tax offering. Allowances were frozen in 1981 as an alternative to putting up tax rates. If he feels compelled to raise income tax Mr Major is likely to go down the same freezing route as Sir Geoffrey Howe.

If the Chancellor wants to demonstrate he is his own man he will resist the short-term political argument of the Prime Minister and others to raise the ceiling on mortgage relief from £30,000 set in 1983. The real value of this relief has withered in the wind of inflation but the only thing to be said in favour of putting up the figure is that it would ease some of the pain caused by escalating mortgage rates. The better way of doing that would be to bring down mortgage rates. This would happen later rather than sooner if extra tax relief prematurely reduced downward pressures on house prices.

The Chancellor I take to be his own man. He does not, however, shine forth as a charismatic figure and in keeping

with his grey political character and the needs of the time he may well produce a dull Budget on March 20. Not for him the great VAT splash Sir Geoffrey Howe made in his first Budget, or the big Lawson plunge into corporation tax reform on his debut in 1984. I could be quite wrong.

Substantial changes in corporation tax including a cut in the 35 per cent rate, though earning him plaudits from industry, would amount to neither a splash nor a plunge. The Chancellor should take on savings.

While the effect of tax inducements on our willingness to save is a hotly contested issue, the collapse in personal saving and the urge to spend are undeniably partly responsible for current economic troubles. Nor can anyone dispute the fact that the tax treatment of savings cries out for reform. Owner-occupied homes and personal pensions receive favourable tax treatment whereas saving in interest-bearing deposit accounts is heavily penalized. Decisions on how to save should not be distorted by tax calculations.

Mr Major may not be a sweeping tax reformer but he will miss a great opportunity, as well as neglecting his duty as Chancellor, not to take some initiative in this area. The Extended Personal Equity Plan put forward by the Institute for Fiscal Studies would make an admirable beginning.

The concept is simple: to extend to all savings the privilege of not being taxed already enjoyed by most forms of saving. Personal Equity Plans do this for investment in equities and unit trusts. An extended PEP would provide tax-free returns from interest-bearing deposits. There would be a limit, as with PEPs, on the amount that could be invested and the Inland Revenue would need to be alert to tax avoidance.

Too complicated for ordinary mortals to bother? Perhaps, but it would be a step in the right direction to have a tax regime for all personal saving, not just homes and pensions.

Bankers and their mistakes

The clearing banks are not at their best, but perhaps they never were. Their exuberant excursion into Third World lending has left a trail of bad debts and huge provisions made against them have cut a swathe through profits. They have reduced National Westminster's pre-tax profits by £1 billion and turned Lloyds from a healthy profit to a loss of £715 million.

Midland's tale is different—and worse. A story of a loss of £261 million in which a significant factor was Midland Montagu's misjudgement of the likely course of sterling interest rates. MM, the bank's treasury and

corporate banking division, took a view that cost a cool £116 million. This does nothing for Midland's credibility, still a fragile thing after three years under Sir Kit McMahon's aegis, and weakens Midland's hand in negotiating a full merger with Hongkong Bank.

Some banking mistakes are understandable, others unforgivable. I put in the second category the experience of a reader with Barclays.

After she had deposited a cheque from her stockbrokers she received a letter from Barclays "noting from our records" the deposit and whence it came and drawing attention "to our Barclaysshare Service." She was

amazed; so were her stockbrokers; so am I.

Has the concept of banking confidentiality gone completely out of the window in this wickedly competitive world? Do all banks peruse customers' accounts to find "prospects" for direct mailing by their selling divisions?

The branch manager was apologetic. "Inexcusable" behaviour—"steps being taken" etc. At this particular branch, however, it appears that "approaches" are still being made, not by letter but over the counter when brokers' cheques are paid in. This is against the rules.

Swedes bid £47m for Runciman

By Our City Staff

Avena, a Swedish property and security group, yesterday launched a £47.8 million cash bid for Walter Runciman, the shipping and security group.

Walter Runciman, which held talks with Avena after it bought a 28.5 per cent stake last December, responded with a holding statement, saying the board would meet on Monday and that, meanwhile, shareholders should take no action.

The Runciman board is expected to reject the bid early next week. Avena also said it held acceptances for 4.4 per cent of the shares. On the news, Runciman's shares leapt 48p to 520p—exactly matching the cash terms.

Mr Hans Eliasson, the president of Avena, said: "The combination of Avena and Runciman will create a strong European security equipment group."

Last year, Walter Runciman defeated a 325p-a-share bid from Telfos Holdings which later sold its stake to the Swedes.

Avena said the terms were 22 per cent more than just before it bought its holding and valued Walter Runciman at 17.6 times 1988 earnings.

BSA calls for drive to attract savers and stay competitive

By Jon Ashworth

Britain's building societies must do more to attract new savers if they hope to remain competitive, the Building Societies Association has claimed.

Last month, net deposits with the societies exceeded withdrawals for the first time in three months, by £369 million. But savers were investing twice as much this time last year.

Mr Mark Boleat, BSA director general, said the rise in net receipts was partly due to savers reinvesting after the water share issue. He welcomed the increase, but said receipts remained unacceptably low.

"The latest figure is almost

50 per cent lower than January 1989 and, indeed, total inflows over the last three months are barely above the figure recorded for October, 1989 alone."

Mr Boleat said lending by the societies remained "remarkably strong", with gross mortgage advances well up on January, 1989.

Net advances rose £106 million to £1.94 billion, up on the previous month but still below the record £2.47 billion recorded in December. Gross mortgage advances rose to £3.3 billion.

The battle to attract savers has begun, with the Leeds

Permanent and Nationwide Anglia both raising interest rates by up to 1 percentage point. The Halifax is expected to lift most of its rates by up to 0.75 of a point next week.

Leeds savers stand to make a top rate of 13.08 per cent annually on £25,000 or more. Nationwide Anglia has a top rate of 12 per cent on its limited issue Platinum Bond.

Bradford & Bingley has raised its mortgage rate to 15.4 per cent. It plans to raise investment rates by 0.75 per cent. TSB is lifting its rate for new borrowers to 15.6 per cent on Monday.

Family Money, page 23

Rebels defeat GPG board

By Sam Parkhouse

Sir Ron Brierley has been frustrated in his attempt to clear the first hurdle in his £55 million bid for the GPG financial services group.

Mr Robert Maxwell, Lord Kinnaird and other disgruntled minority shareholders joined forces at yesterday's GPG meetings, defeating a special resolution that would have put the board in a position to

pay dividends after a reorganization of the reserves.

Mr Maxwell and Lord Kinnaird have put themselves in a position to frustrate the 17p-a-share bid by Sir Ron's IEP by lifting their stakes through market buys.

They control 28.5 per cent of GPG. Mr Maxwell has been buying shares at about 5p above the offer price, taking his holding to 17.45 per cent. And Lord Kinnaird, founder of

GPG, yesterday increased his stake to 11.1 per cent.

A board resolution to reduce the group share capital to eliminate the deficit on distributable reserves failed to win 75 per cent approval.

The resolution would have created a reserve of \$83.8 million against the debit of \$80 million on the profit and loss account.

IEP says it has 61 per cent acceptances.

NatWest should take most of the blame, says Swiss bank

By John Bell, City Editor

National Westminster should accept most of the responsibility for losses suffered by investors in the Blue Arrow affair, according to the Union Bank of Switzerland.

Mr Robert Studer, UBS chief executive, pledged that the bank would honour its obligations but stressed that it played only a junior role in the affair. "We will not walk away from our responsibilities but they must be in the correct proportion," he said after the announcement of the bank's annual results in Zurich.

The £837 million Blue Arrow rights issue flopped disastrously, but County NatWest, NatWest's investment banking subsidiary, later announced that the unsold shares had been placed successfully. It emerged in a Department of Trade investigation that large lines of

stock had been warehoused by UBS and NatWest subsidiaries. Former employees of both organizations are facing charges arising from the affair.

County NatWest and Phillips & Drew, UBS's stockbroking subsidiary, are now in dispute over a scheme to compensate investors. County has offered to pay up to 30p per share to some investors, but P&D balked at the idea of paying an equal share of compensation.

"NatWest offered 50-50 and we're of the opinion that's not the situation," said Mr Studer, adding that the fact P&D was only mentioned on some 20 pages of the DTT's 200-page report into the affair gave a fair indication of P&D's share of the blame. He also said P&D would make a loss in 1989 and a smaller loss in 1990, but expected it to be in profit by 1991. In Zurich UBS bearer shares opened at SwFr3,880 (£1,566), down slightly on the previous day's close of

SwFr3,920, after the bank announced it was offering to exchange all its participation certificates for bearer shares and increasing its capital.

It will also cancel two rights issues, offering one new bearer or registered share per 20 old shares, and one new bearer share for 500 participation certificates. The issue will be priced at SwFr2,500 per bearer share and SwFr500 per registered share.

UBS, Switzerland's largest commercial bank, lifted 1989 group net profit to SwFr902 million (SwFr778 million). Its dividend advanced to SwFr135 per bearer from SwFr120, SwFr27 per registered share from SwFr24, and SwFr5.40 per certificate from SwFr4.80. Mr Studer said the bank had no plans to open its registered shares to foreigners and would continue to maintain a 5 per cent limit on any single registered shareholding.

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WALL STREET

New York (Reuters) - The Dow Jones industrial average was down 10 points at 2,564.77 after less than 10 minutes of trading, with many issues in the Dow average not open for trading because of an influx of orders, dealers said.

Shares generally opened broadly lower following Tokyo's second severe loss this week. Falling prices outnumbered rises by four to one.

● Hong Kong - The Hang Seng index lost 33.61 at 2,894.31 after recovering from its afternoon low of 2,863. The broader-based Hong Kong index lost 22.18 to 1,899.22.

● Sydney - The All-Ord index sank 27.9 to 1,580.1 after breaching the 1,600 psychological level. Shares retreated heavily under pressure from Tokyo.

Shares generally opened broadly lower following Tokyo's second severe loss this week. Falling prices outnumbered rises by four to one.

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STOCK MARKET

Saatchi price freefall cuts value by £150m

By Matthew Bond

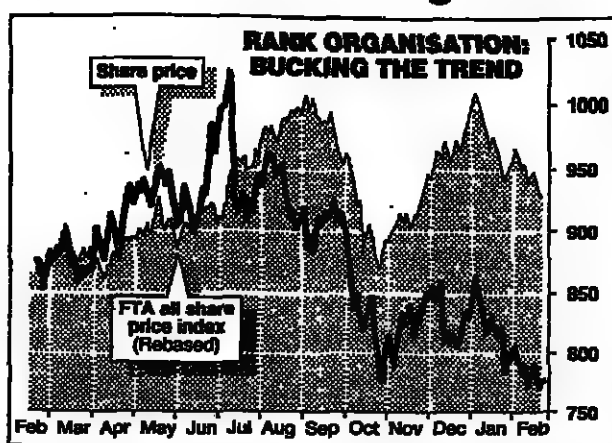
The trouncing of Saatchi & Saatchi continued yesterday. After Thursday's 20p drop, Saatchi's shares went into freefall.

They tumbled 51p to 131p, wiping 28 per cent from the company's market value in a day. In the last five days, the fall in Saatchi shares, which started the week at 225p, has wiped £150 million from the market value of what was once the world's largest advertising group.

Analysts are slightly puzzled by the sudden dramatic slide in Saatchi's popularity, arguing that all the bad news has been known for some time. Much is made of the fact that the company's 1989 accounts, which holders of the 1989 convertible issue hold and will doubtless exercise in 1993, given the gap between the current share price and the 44p conversion price.

Mr Mark Sheppard of Phillips & Drew, the broker, believes this could cost the company up to £211 million in 1993. Profits for 1990 are forecast at about £65 million. But the sudden slide in the share price suggests there might be rather more immediate problems ahead.

While the Saatchi brothers must be wishing they had never heard of Madison Avenue, Mr James Gattward, the chief executive of TVS Entertainment, must be thinking the same about Miss Mary Tyler Moore, the American actress. Things for TVS have not been the same since it bought the American production company that bears her initials.



Shares in Rank Organisation defied the trend, closing 4p higher at 78p, above. Since its surprise £257 million rights issue, interest has centred on the hefty final dividend of 20.5p which accompanied the rights. On Monday, the shares go ex-dividend. Some correction is inevitable but, once that is out of the way, Schroder's Mr Richard Harwood believes, the shares could begin to make progress. The expected pre-tax profits of £358 million and earnings per share of 84.3p for the current year put the shares on a prospective p/e of only 9.3.

MTM, for £190 million in 1988. As reports grew that the company was having trouble finding a buyer for a 49 per cent stake in MTM, the shares continued to explore new ground at the wrong end of their new large trading range. After Thursday's 22p drop, TVS shares fell another 6p to a low of 92p.

WPP, which followed Saatchi's transatlantic expansion by buying J Walter Thompson and then Ogilvy & Mather, was also made down but far less dramatically. Its shares fell 15p to 648p. Elsewhere, buyers rushed for cover with the end of the account coinciding with another large overnight fall in Tokyo. Dealers believe that, while London and New York have to date defied the downward pressure from Tokyo, another serious correction in Japan next week could send both markets tumbling.

Volume in the early part of the day was higher than expected given the speed at which the FT-SE 100 opened up a 30-point fall. But much of the trade was technical and trading slowed appreciably ahead of Wall Street's opening, as the deficit widened to 40 points. However, as Wall Street held its nerve, the FT-SE 100 edged 33.6 points down at 2,335.6, with the FT

30 index down 27.1 at 1762.7.

It was not the sort of day for any broking house contemplating placing large stakes. Scottish & Newcastle, where the market had been looking for Elders DXL of Australia to place its 23.7 per cent stake, was 11p lower at 303p on talk that Elders had declined an offer of 28p for its shares.

At Enterprise Oil, where the market has been expecting ICI to place its 24.9 per cent holding, the shares fell 6p to 622p.

STC, which is fast becoming a nest of rumours, with the market undecided whether Northern Telecom of Canada is looking for a buyer for its 27.4 per cent stake or whether Sun Microsystems, the American company, might get involved with STC's computer subsidiary, ICL. Opinion narrowly favours the latter and the shares edged only 5p lower to 260p.

Globe Investment Trust, however, had no such placing problems with its long-standing 26 per cent stake in fellow investment trust, Electra.

Rather than seek an institutional buyer for the stake, the always innovative Globe is to offer the shares to its own shareholders. For every 13.75 shares in Globe, Globe shareholders get one share in Electra, priced at 260p each.

Electra shares fell sharply on the news, closing down 20p at 266p, leaving Globe shareholders who accept the offer a modest profit on the deal. Globe shares finished 64p lower at 166p.

Nikkei tumbles 935 to below 35,000

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

Share prices suffered their fifth largest fall ever, sinking more than 900 points amid confusion about the outlook for Japanese interest rates, worries about the sickly yen and weak bond prices.

Wild talk in an already nervous market and thin, pre-weekend trading accelerated the decline. But dealers and analysts said no sign of panic remained, and they saw no reason for London and Wall Street to ape a market that was responding largely to domestic worries.

The Nikkei index ended 935.87 points, or 2.61 per cent, lower at 34,890.97 - the first time it has dipped below 35,000

since October. The Nikkei index has lost 4,000 points so far this year, surrendering all the ground it made in November and December in its jubilation about the opening of eastern Europe.

The dollar climbed sharply despite repeated intervention by the Bank of Japan, rising ¥124 to ¥146.47, its highest in five months. Index-linked program-selling once again amplified the stock market's fall.

Mr Toshihiko Yoshimori, a senior analyst at Yamachi Securities, said: "Last year, the market grew too much on index-linked trading, so now the program-trading is bringing the market down to reasonable levels." But the focus

of attention remains uncertainty about Japanese monetary policy and open squabbling between the Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Japan.

Mr David Pike, an economist at UBS Phillips & Drew, the broker, said: "We are now in such a negative environment that we've got all sorts of rumours that in normal circumstances the market might shrug off." But he saw no reason for Tokyo's unease to infect other markets, though he concedes that sentiment overseas could suffer.

● Frankfurt (Reuters) - The DAX index closed 30.51 lower at 1,789.64. ● Singapore - The Straits Times industrial index fell 13.56 to 1,548.97.

INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

	Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	40%	60%	Notice	Contact
BANKS						
Ordinary Dep A/c	5.00	5.10	4.98	none/none	7 day	
Fixed Term Deposits:						
1 month	10.87	10.87	10.87	25,000-50,000	1 mth	01-828 1587
3 months	11.84	11.84	11.84	25,000-50,000	3 mth	01-828 1587
6 months	12.81	12.81	12.81	25,000-50,000	6 mth	01-828 1587
1 year	13.78	13.78	13.78	25,000-50,000	1 year	01-828 1587
2 years	14.75	14.75	14.75	25,000-50,000	2 years	01-828 1587
3 years	15.72	15.72	15.72	25,000-50,000	3 years	01-828 1587
4 years	16.69	16.69	16.69	25,000-50,000	4 years	01-828 1587
5 years	17.66	17.66	17.66	25,000-50,000	5 years	01-828 1587
6 years	18.63	18.63	18.63	25,000-50,000	6 years	01-828 1587
7 years	19.60	19.60	19.60	25,000-50,000	7 years	01-828 1587
8 years	20.57	20.57	20.57	25,000-50,000	8 years	01-828 1587
9 years	21.54	21.54	21.54	25,000-50,000	9 years	01-828 1587
10 years	22.51	22.51	22.51	25,000-50,000	10 years	01-828 1587

HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS						
Bank of Scotland	10.84	11.16	8.94	2,500	none	01-442 7777
Barclays	9.50	9.84	7.87	1,500	none	0804 252891
Chapman & Co	7.10	7.30	5.87	Mo min	none	01-628 9543
Co-operative	9.25	9.25	7.43	1,000	none	01-585 2380
First Direct	10.48	10.48	8.57	10,000-100,000	1 mth	01-585 2380
First National	10.61	10.61	8.49	10,000-100,000	1 mth	01-585 2380
First Western	10.63	10.63	8.50	10,000-100,000	1 mth	01-585 2380
First Yorkshire	10.75	10.75	8.50	10,000-100,000	1 mth	01-585 2380

BUILDING SOCIETIES						
Ordinary Share A/c	6.15	6.15	4.92	1 mth	none	
Fixed Term Deposits:						
1 month	10.87	10.87	10.87	25,000-50,000	1 mth	01-828 1587
3 months	11.84	11.84	11.84	25,000-50,000	3 mth	01-828 1587
6 months	12.81	12.81	12.81	25,000-50,000	6 mth	01-828 1587
1 year	13.78	13.78	13.78	25,000-50,000	1 year	01-828 1587
2 years	14.75	14.75	14.75	25,000-50,000	2 years	01-828 1587
3 years	15.72	15.72	15.72	25,000-50,000	3 years	01-828 1587
4 years	16.69	16.69	16.69	25,000-50,000	4 years	01-828 1587
5 years	17.66	17.66	17.66	25,000-50,000	5 years	01-828 1587
6 years	18.63	18.63	18.63	25,000-50,000	6 years	01-828 1587
7 years	19.60	19.60	19.60	25,000-50,000	7 years	01-828 1587
8 years	20.57	20.57	20.57	25,000-50,000	8 years	01-828 1587
9 years	21.54	21.54	21.54	25,000-50,000	9 years	01-828 1587
10 years	22.51	22.51	22.51	25,000-50,000	10 years	01-828 1587

NATIONAL SAVINGS						
Ordinary A/c	5.00	5.10	4.98	5-10,000	9 day	01-848-4555
Fixed Term Deposits:						
1 month	10.87	10.87	10.87	25,000-50,000	1 mth	01-828 1587
3 months	11.84	11.84	11.84	25,000-50,000	3 mth	01-828 1587
6 months	12.81	12.81	12.81	25,000-50,000	6 mth	01-828 1587
1 year	13.78	13.78	13.78	25,000-50,000	1 year	01-828 1587
2 years	14.75	14.75	14.75	25,000-50,000	2 years	01-828 1587
3 years	15.72	15.72	15.72	25,000-50,000	3 years	01-828 1587
4 years	16.69	16.69	16.69	25,000-50,000	4 years	01-828 1587
5 years	17.66	17.66	17.66	25,000-50,000	5 years	01-828 1587
6 years	18.63	18.63	18.63	25,000-50,000	6 years	01-828 1587
7 years	19.60	19.60	19.60	25,000-50,000	7 years	01-828 1587
8 years	20.57	20.57	20.57	25,000-50,000	8 years	01-828 1587
9 years	21.54	21.54	21.54	25,000-50,000	9 years	01-828 1587
10 years	22.51	22.51	22.51	25,000-50,000	10 years	01-828 1587

With Lease Costly Early Penalty	7.50	7.50	7.50	25-1,000	14 day	091-388-6490
Extended Return Capital Bond	8.01	8.01	8.01			
Expansion Bond	12.00	9.02	7.59	100-nr max	5 yrs	041-848-4555
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS						
Fixed Assesment	12.30	12.30	10.48	5,000 min	1 yr	Figures from
Unfixed Assesment	11.28	11.28	8.88	5,000 min	2 yr	Chase of
Fixed Assesment	11.00	11.00	8.95	5,000 min	3 yr	Chase of
Unfixed Assesment	10.76	10.76	8.19	2,000 min	4 yr	01 04 488 4555
Fixed Assesment	11.00	11.00	8.36	2,000 min	5 yr	for details
Unfixed Assesment	10.76	10.76	8.36			
PI (January 69-00)						
	+7.7%			Holiday rates		2 boy
				Spanish President		1802

Portfolio

Claims required for +174 points
Claimants should ring 0254-5327.

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began February 12. Dealings ended yesterday. ⁵Contango day February 26. Settlement day March 5.
⁶Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at 4 pm. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (a) denotes Alpha Stocks.

[illegible]

姓名	性别	年龄	籍贯	职业	住址	电话	备注
王德胜	男	45	山东	工人	天津路123号	2345	
李秀英	女	38	河北	教师	文化路45号	3456	
张国强	男	52	江苏	医生	健康路78号	4567	
刘小红	女	28	浙江	学生	学府路90号	5678	
陈为民	男	60	安徽	退休	和平路101号	6789	
赵大刚	男	35	湖北	农民	农村路112号	7890	
孙丽娟	女	42	湖南	护士	医院路123号	8901	
周志远	男	55	四川	工程师	技术路134号	9012	
吴小芳	女	30	江西	会计	财务路145号	0123	
郑长林	男	65	广东	商人	商业路156号	1234	
冯雅静	女	25	广西	文员	行政路167号	2345	
马建军	男	48	河南	司机	交通路178号	3456	
徐美玲	女	33	福建	设计师	创意路189号	4567	
高伟明	男	58	山西	教授	大学路190号	5678	
梁小华	女	22	陕西	实习生	企业路201号	6789	
周国强	男	62	甘肃	退休	公园路212号	7890	
吴丽霞	女	37	云南	导游	旅游路223号	8901	
郑为民	男	50	贵州	工人	工厂路234号	9012	
冯大刚	男	40	海南	商人	港口路245号	0123	
孙雅静	女	27	重庆	学生	学校路256号	1234	
马志远	男	53	四川	工程师	技术路267号	2345	
徐小芳	女	32	江西	会计	财务路278号	3456	
高长林	男	67	广东	退休	公园路289号	4567	
冯美玲	女	24	广西	文员	行政路290号	5678	
马建军	男	49	河南	司机	交通路301号	6789	
徐丽娟	女	34	福建	护士	医院路312号	7890	
高志远	男	59	山西	教授	大学路323号	8901	
梁小华	女	23	陕西	实习生	企业路334号	9012	
周国强	男	63	甘肃	退休	公园路345号	0123	
吴丽霞	女	36	云南	导游	旅游路356号	1234	
郑为民	男	51	贵州	工人	工厂路367号	2345	
冯大刚	男	41	海南	商人	港口路378号	3456	
孙雅静	女	26	重庆	学生	学校路389号	4567	
马志远	男	54	四川	工程师	技术路390号	5678	
徐小芳	女	31	江西	会计	财务路401号	6789	
高长林	男	68	广东	退休	公园路412号	7890	
冯美玲	女	25	广西	文员	行政路423号	8901	
马建军	男	50	河南	司机	交通路434号	9012	
徐丽娟	女	35	福建	护士	医院路445号	0123	
高志远	男	60	山西	教授	大学路456号	1234	
梁小华	女	24	陕西	实习生	企业路467号	2345	
周国强	男	64	甘肃	退休	公园路478号	3456	
吴丽霞	女	37	云南	导游	旅游路489号	4567	
郑为民	男	52	贵州	工人	工厂路490号	5678	
冯大刚	男	42	海南	商人	港口路501号	6789	
孙雅静	女	27	重庆	学生	学校路512号	7890	
马志远	男	55	四川	工程师	技术路523号	8901	
徐小芳	女	32	江西	会计	财务路534号	9012	
高长林	男	69	广东	退休	公园路545号	0123	
冯美玲	女	26	广西	文员	行政路556号	1234	
马建军	男	51	河南	司机	交通路567号	2345	
徐丽娟	女	36	福建	护士	医院路578号	3456	
高志远	男	61	山西	教授	大学路589号	4567	
梁小华	女	25	陕西	实习生	企业路590号	5678	
周国强	男	65	甘肃	退休	公园路601号	6789	
吴丽霞	女	38	云南	导游	旅游路612号	7890	

ELECTRICALS

4472	Alt. Prod.	292		881	81	72
4473	Alt. Prod.	292		882	81	73
4474	Alt. Prod.	292		883	81	74
4475	Alt. Prod.	292		884	81	75
4476	Alt. Prod.	292		885	81	76
4477	Alt. Prod.	292		886	81	77
4478	Alt. Prod.	292		887	81	78
4479	Alt. Prod.	292		888	81	79
4480	Alt. Prod.	292		889	81	80
4481	Alt. Prod.	292		890	81	81
4482	Alt. Prod.	292		891	81	82
4483	Alt. Prod.	292		892	81	83
4484	Alt. Prod.	292		893	81	84
4485	Alt. Prod.	292		894	81	85
4486	Alt. Prod.	292		895	81	86
4487	Alt. Prod.	292		896	81	87
4488	Alt. Prod.	292		897	81	88
4489	Alt. Prod.	292		898	81	89
4490	Alt. Prod.	292		899	81	90
4491	Alt. Prod.	292		900	81	91
4492	Alt. Prod.	292		901	81	92
4493	Alt. Prod.	292		902	81	93
4494	Alt. Prod.	292		903	81	94
4495	Alt. Prod.	292		904	81	95
4496	Alt. Prod.	292		905	81	96
4497	Alt. Prod.	292		906	81	97
4498	Alt. Prod.	292		907	81	98
4499	Alt. Prod.	292		908	81	99
4500	Alt. Prod.	292		909	81	00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810	811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824	825	826	827	828	829	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	840	841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	860	861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868	869	870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	880	881	882	883	884	885	886	887	888	889	890	891	892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	900	901	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910	911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918	919	920	921	922	923	924	925	926	927	928	929	930	931	932	933	934	935	936	937	938	939	940	941	942	943	944	945	946	947	948	949	950	951	952	953	954	955	956	957	958	959	960	961	962	963	964	965	966	967	968	969	970	971	972	973	974	975	976	977	978	979	980	981	982	983	984	985	986	987	988	989	990	991	992	993	994	995	996	997	998	999	1000
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	P	D	A	P	D	A	P	D	A
	1984	1985	1986	1984	1985	1986	1984	1985	1986
Alaska	84	89	85	73	84	87	84	87	87
Arizona	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
Arkansas	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
California	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
Colorado	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
Connecticut	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
Delaware	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
District of Columbia	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
Florida	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
Georgia	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
Hawaii	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
Idaho	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
Illinois	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
Indiana	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
Iowa	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
Kansas	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
Kentucky	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
Louisiana	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
Maine	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
Maryland	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
Massachusetts	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
Michigan	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
Minnesota	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
Mississippi	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
Missouri	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
Montana	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
Nebraska	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
Nevada	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
New Hampshire	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
New Jersey	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
New Mexico	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
New York	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
North Carolina	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
North Dakota	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
Ohio	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
Oklahoma	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
Oregon	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
Pennsylvania	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
Rhode Island	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
South Carolina	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
South Dakota	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
Tennessee	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
Texas	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
Utah	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
Vermont	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
Virginia	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
Washington	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
West Virginia	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
Wisconsin	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
Wyoming	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84
Total	84	85	85	80	84	84	84	84	84

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, 1984, 1985, 1986.

Notes: 1. Data for Alaska and Hawaii are based on the 1980 Census. 2. Data for the District of Columbia

● Ex dividend ● Ex all b Forecast dividend ● Interim payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment h Pre-merger figures i Forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights s Ex scrip or share split t Tax-free ... No significant data.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Trust Name	Assets	Income	Dividend
First Investment Trust	\$100,000,000	\$1.25	\$1.00
Second Investment Trust	\$80,000,000	\$1.10	\$0.85
Third Investment Trust	\$120,000,000	\$1.35	\$1.10
Fourth Investment Trust	\$90,000,000	\$1.15	\$0.90
Fifth Investment Trust	\$110,000,000	\$1.20	\$0.95
Sixth Investment Trust	\$70,000,000	\$1.05	\$0.80
Seventh Investment Trust	\$130,000,000	\$1.40	\$1.15
Eighth Investment Trust	\$60,000,000	\$0.95	\$0.70
Ninth Investment Trust	\$140,000,000	\$1.50	\$1.25
Tenth Investment Trust	\$50,000,000	\$0.85	\$0.60

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FAMILY MONEY

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OFT 'concern' at ban on discounts for Baring funds

By Tony Hetherington

The Office of Fair Trading is to be asked to investigate a decision by Baring Fund Managers to refuse to deal with firms of financial intermediaries which advertise discounts on unit trusts.

In a letter to three such firms, Mr Peter Hall, Baring's marketing director, says: "It has come to my notice that your company has recently been advertising in this way, and in view of this I must reluctantly inform you that Baring Fund Managers is not prepared to accept deals from your company, with effect from the date of this letter."

One of the three firms affected, Chelsea Financial Services, believes the ban stifles competition by restricting the sale of units in Baring's 17 funds to financial advisers who charge the same price as that quoted to investors who approach Baring direct.

Chelsea managing director Mr John Holder said: "We have been in touch with the Office of Fair Trading and they are most concerned. They say they have never come

across the situation before and want to look into it as a matter of urgency."

"We have put about £100 million into unit trusts over the past few years, and we have more than 5,000 clients. We do not have this problem with any other fund manager, just Baring."

Intermediaries regularly advertise in the national press, offering discounts as high as 4.5 per cent on the cost of units. The discounts are given in the form of extra units, so, for example, units which would normally cost £1,045 might cost only £1,000.

The intermediaries achieve this by negotiating special deals with the fund managers, but primarily by giving up some or even all of their own commission, which is typically 3 per cent of the sum invested.

Now Baring has refused to accept deals from intermediaries advertising discounts because, it claims, the minority of commission-splitting intermediaries is threatening

the much larger body of financial advisers who charge investors the full price.

"There is a very large industry of intermediaries out there who spend an awful lot of time, effort and money in advising and developing their own client base," said Mr Hall.

"It seemed to us that the very few companies who were advertising discounts were inducing somebody else's clients to come and deal with them. We did not feel that was fair to the intermediaries who were putting in all the effort."

Baring's ban has so far been imposed on three intermediaries. "Others will be written to within the next day or two," the company said. "Our rule is a rule of principle and any advisers who go against it will be treated in the same way."

The decision has been attacked by Chelsea Financial Services. Mr David Llewellyn, a director, said: "We feel very badly about this because Baring's are good funds. We feel we should be able to offer them to our clients. The



The management regrets: John Holder and David Llewellyn (right) with the Barings letter

discount comes from our commission, so it does not affect them one iota. We receive 3 per cent commission and we refund 2 per cent to our clients in extra units.

"If a client rings up and wants to put £10,000 into Baring funds, we now have to say that unfortunately we are not allowed to deal with

but companies which have recently advertised discounts on unit trusts include Premier Fund Managers of Guildford, Surrey, who offer up to 3 per cent extra on all British unit trusts, Credenda Limited of Woking, Surrey, offering discounts of up to 4 per cent, and Tudor Jones & Associates of South Glamorgan, also offering 4 per cent.

Mr Llewellyn added that Baring's decision made it impossible for Chelsea to give the best advice possible to clients, as required by investor protection laws. "As far as best advice is concerned, it makes a mockery out of the whole thing," he said.

Baring directors refuse to name the other intermediaries against whom they have acted,

Mr Goldstone does not accept that the half-way, half-later scheme encourages buyers to over-extend themselves, particularly first-time buyers. "Our average property fully priced is £200,000, so £100,000 is being asked for now, which means a buyer is looking for a mortgage of £90,000 after the deposit."

On the conventional multiples that Regalian's panel of banks and building societies will lend at, this means a single buyer will need an income of £30,000, and is unlikely to be a first-time buyer. "In general a person earning £30,000 is fairly sophisticated in terms of their finances," he says.

For savers with £5,000 or more, Lloyds Bank offers the same 12 per cent rate on a fixed-rate deposit scheme, available until March 16. The gross rate on £50,000 or more works out at 15.4 per cent.

Norwich & Peterborough is paying 11.35 per cent net on its Six Months Bond, the Scarborough pays 11.75 per cent on a six-month fixed-interest share account, and the Guardian has a limited term deposit bond yielding 12.85 per cent net. The minimum deposit is £25,000.

Nationwide Anglia has raised the rate on CapitalBonds, its 90-day account, to 11.75 per cent on £25,000 or more. Bournemouth, an instant access account, will pay between 7.25 per cent and 10.5 per cent, while the net rate on PlatinumBond - the two-year limited issue bond - is now 12 per cent.

Leeds savers can now earn 13.08 per cent net annually or 12.50 monthly on sums of £25,000 or more. Liquid Gold pays a top rate of 10.75 per cent net on £10,000 or more, while the 90-day Solid Gold account pays 11.75 per cent on balances over £25,000.

Nationwide Anglia has raised the rate on CapitalBonds, its 90-day account, to 11.75 per cent on £25,000 or more.

High street catches the Abbey National habit

All the main lenders came into line with the Abbey National this week by increasing their mortgage rates to 15.4 per cent. The odd one out was the Woolwich Building Society, which limited its rise to 15.25 per cent, saying this would help it stay competitive, writes Jon Ashworth.

The winners in the latest round of increases are first-time buyers and existing borrowers on an annual review. The Halifax Building Society has frozen monthly payments for 80 per cent of its borrowers - 1.2 million people - at 14.5 per cent until April 1991. The rest can switch to the old rate at no extra charge.

Many lenders have increased the discounts on loans of more than £60,000, taking some of the heat off

higher borrowers. New borrowers taking out a mortgage of £60,000 or more from Nationwide Anglia will receive a large loan discount of 0.65 per cent for the first three years of the loan - more than double the previous discount.

This will work out at a rate of 14.75 per cent from March 1. The Woolwich has announced a similar deal, while Leeds Permanent has brought in the same discount on new loans over £50,000. The Halifax is a fraction better, with a rate of 14.7 per cent on loans of £60,000. For mortgages of £100,000 or more, the rate falls to 14.6 per cent. First-time buyers are offered 14.5 per cent.

The Newbury Building Society has not only kept its rates down but

has a discounted rate of 13.5 per cent for loans over £60,000, making it one of the best deals around.

The Alliance & Leicester is offering a 1 per cent discount for 12 months for first-time buyers. Lloyds Bank, which announced the highest rate so far - 15.7 per cent - this week, is hoping to attract new buyers with a 2 per cent discount on mortgages linked to a Black Horse Life endowment or pension policy.

Fixed-rate mortgages are also fashionable, with Barclays pegging the rate at 13.4 per cent for two years. It has also pledged not to increase its variable rate until May, provided there is no general increase in base rates. Yorkshire Building Society has launched a two-year

13.95 per cent fixed-rate mortgage. Its 13.5 per cent plan was snapped up within 24 hours. Savers have seen bank and building society rates go through the roof. Nationwide Anglia and the Leeds have said they will raise investment rates by up to 1 per cent, and other big names are set to follow.

Leeds savers can now earn 13.08 per cent net annually or 12.50 monthly on sums of £25,000 or more. Liquid Gold pays a top rate of 10.75 per cent net on £10,000 or more, while the 90-day Solid Gold account pays 11.75 per cent on balances over £25,000.

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Nationwide Anglia has raised the rate on CapitalBonds, its 90-day account, to 11.75 per cent on £25,000 or more.

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Our Income Plan invests in sound equities which produce above average yields and have good prospects for longer term growth. Our Growth Plan invests in companies which we believe are currently undervalued and offer an opportunity for medium to longer term growth. Whichever plan you choose, the first £2,400 is invested in the relevant Scottish Widows Unit Trust, and the balance is directly invested in up to 5 carefully selected UK equities.

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As the UK's 12th largest investor we manage over £12 billion. Over £6 billion of this is in UK equities. Over £450 million is in our range of unit trusts. This means that our investment managers have the experience, and the financial strength, the analytical resources and the expertise to seek the best advantage from investment opportunities on your behalf.

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Past performance is no guarantee of future returns. The value of a PEP may go down as well as up, therefore the investor may not get back the amount originally invested. Tax assumptions are subject to statutory change and the value of tax relief will depend on the circumstances of the investor.

Source: * Money Management April 1989 Managed Fund Sector Performance. ** Money Management May 1989.

Telephone 031 655 3555 or send this coupon to Scottish Widows Investment Management Ltd, FREEPOST, 15 Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh EH16 0NE.

Please send me urgently full details of the Scottish Widows PEP.

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Fidelity Special Situations Trust has been named Unit Trust of the Decade by Micropal, a leading statistical authority. Put quite simply, it has outperformed every other unit trust over the past 10 years*.

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Now, through the Fidelity Personal Equity Plan, you can invest in this Trust - and not pay a penny in tax on future capital gains, no matter how great they may be.

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To receive your Fidelity PEP information pack, talk to your Independent Financial Adviser or Callfree Fidelity on 0800 414161 or clip the coupon below.

Source: * Micropal 1.1.80 to 1.1.90, offer to bid with net income reinvested. Over 5 years the Trust ranked No. 2. ** £2,400 invested on 1st January each year from 1980 to 1989 with performance figure for the period 1.1.80 to 1.1.90, offer to bid, gross income reinvested. The same amount invested in each of the last 5 years would have returned £133,479.

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To Fidelity Nominees Limited, PO Box 88, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9DZ.

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If yes, what is the renewal date? _____

The promise of the East.

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FAMILY MONEY

Flaw in law foils pension plans

Private pension holders who contracted out of the state pension scheme stand to lose hundreds of pounds because of mistakes in the system, it has been claimed (Jon Ashworth writes).

Mr Martin Korn, a partner with Blick Rothenberg, the chartered accountants, said thousands have still not had Serps rebate paid into their personal pension plans. Even worse, employees who buy themselves back into Serps between jobs, stand to make nothing because of a flaw in the pension legislation.

He said: "The whole system is crazy - neither the Department of Social Security nor the insurance companies seem to know whether the amounts are right or how they are calculated. No one seems to care about the man in the street."

The Government has used incentives to encourage people to "contract out" and arrange their pension privately. As many



Korn: Problems with contracting-out as few million people have done this. A rebate, made up of National Insurance contributions and tax relief, should be channelled from the Department of Social Security to the insurance com-

panies and into personal pensions. This, says Mr Korn, is not always the case.

Some job-changers may have to wait up to a year before they can join a new company pension scheme, going back into Serps in the meantime. According to Blick Rothenberg, any pension rights that build up during that time cannot be paid into a personal pension.

The DSS says that it will look into whether the rules can be changed to allow payment.

Many life companies say that they are satisfied with the way the system is working. Legal & General, which has sold more than 150,000 rebate-only pensions, reports few problems. NPI, which has sold 130,000 plans, says that the system is running quite smoothly. "There are still some outstanding rebates, but we are starting to talk in dozens rather than hundreds," it said.

Barbara Ellis takes the managers to task

Perils of Pep picking

Close to £1 billion has poured into personal equity plans since last year's Budget rewrote the rules governing these tax-free investments.

But analysts monitoring the 300 different Peps presently on offer say that many of the 100 managers operating them are overvaluing the tax breaks available, blinding investors to the importance of comparing charges and performance.

"Picking the wrong Pep can wipe out the benefit of the tax savings for years to come," says Mr John Spiers, of Best Pep Advice, which uses "immediate realization value" (IRV) to compare plan charges.

This figure is arrived at by deducting such items as share dealing commission, stamp duty and VAT from the amount invested and allowing for the bid/offer spread on shares and unit trusts.

However, although Best Pep claims that its measure shows how much an investor would receive if the Pep were cashed

in immediately after subscription, Mr Spiers concedes that it does not take account of withdrawal charges. These often amount to at least £10 and there may be limits on the money taken out.

"In practice we didn't think people should be taking Peps out with a view to closing them down in the short term," said Mr Spiers, adding that the

cost on their side, says Mr Spiers, who adds it is a myth that investors do better by buying shares direct. This is because of the difference between the 0.2 per cent brokerage unit trusts pay when buying shares and the 1.5 to 1.8 per cent charged to individuals.

Another cost often overlooked is the spread between

buying and selling prices for shares which can range from 1.5 per cent to 10 per cent.

On the evidence of the survey, Mr Spiers says investors should stay away from Peps set up by intermediaries, as these simply add on unnecessary extra costs.

However, some of the targets of Best Pep's comments question its conclusions. Neilson

Milnes, a Liverpool broker, is named as a high charger both for discretionary and self-select plans, but Mr Roderick Primrose there says because of discounts no investor would actually have to pay as much as the survey indicates.

"Best Pep does not take into account how the business is done," he says, as most of his firm's Peps are sold direct to existing clients, not through agents on high commission.

Also named as a high charger for discretionary plans is Whitechurch Securities of Bristol, which has taken about £350,000 in Pep money from 100 clients since launching a plan run by broker W I Carr in December. Mr Kean Seager of Whitechurch said he did not recall giving information to Best Pep.

"I can't apologise for earning about £100 on a £2,500 investment. I think that's a reasonable amount for the work we do," he said. His firm specializes in picking investment trusts.

● In practice we didn't think people should be taking Peps out with a view to closing them down in the short term ●

BRIEFINGS

■ Clerical Medical in Jersey has launched a retirement savings plan for Britons living abroad. The International Pension Account, a retirement annuity contract, pays benefits as a cash sum. The minimum regular premium is £50 a month for at least two years, and the initial single premium is £4,000. The cash sum will be paid free of any tax in Jersey.

■ Morgan Grenfell Unit Trust Managers' Asian Trader

Trust took in £41 million in just two days when it went on offer earlier this month. Savers can invest lump sums of £1,000 or £50 a month in the trust, which will invest in Tiger markets like Malaysia and Indonesia. There is an initial charge of 5.25 per cent and an annual 1.5 per cent.

■ Girobank is offering a range of discounts on car insurance to its Visa cardholders. A new service, Motor Connection, offers a discount

of £1 in £15 on car insurance premiums. The service is underwritten by General Accident. Quotations are available on freephone 0800 833 141.

■ Scottish Widows has launched a Personal Equity Plan which carries a 1 per cent discount until March 27. In addition, anyone investing in the plan will be eligible for a similar discount on next year's plan. There is an initial 5.5 per cent charge on the share

portion of the Pep, with an annual management charge of 1.5 per cent. There are no extra Pep charges on the unit trust portion.

■ The importance of planning early for retirement is the theme of a new guide to pensions by Abbey Life. The Concise Guide to Personal Pensions also looks at the benefits of leaving the state pension scheme and examines how personal pensions work. Tel (0202) 292373.

£35 A MONTH CAN ACCUMULATE LOTS OF MONEY

A unit trust savings plan is ideal for regular investment in equities. It takes the worry out of when to invest. If you had started a £35 a month plan in M&G Recovery Fund in May 1989 you would have built up a capital investment of £156,104 by 29th December 1989 for an outlay of £8,645. Past performance cannot be a guarantee for the future. M&G Recovery Fund buys shares of companies which have fallen on hard times. Losses must be expected when a company fails to recover but the effect of a turnaround can be dramatic.

Start your plan now for as little as £35 a month. You can add to your investment at any time and are free to cash in your accumulated investment, or part of it, at any time without penalty. The price of units and the income reinvested can go down as well as up.

The M&G Group is the winner of the 1989 Money Management magazine large unit trust group of the year award and the fund management group of the decade award.

FURTHER INFORMATION

On 29th December 1989 the offered price for Accumulation units was 950p and the spread between the offered price and the bid price was 5.44%.

The prices are calculated as at 9.15 am each business day. Prices and yields appear daily in the Financial Times. The spread is the difference between the offered price (at which you buy units) and the bid price (at which you sell). We have a discretion to vary the pricing basis of the units and also the spread within a range, calculated in accordance with statutory regulations. An initial charge of 5% is included in the offered price. The Manager's annual charge is 1%. The Manager's annual charge, Trustee's fees (currently 0.05% plus VAT) and Registrar's fees (currently 0.08%

plus VAT) based on the fund's mid-market value are deducted from gross income pro-rata on the first day of each Stock Exchange Account. There are no extra charges for the Savings Plan. Your Savings Plan subscriptions go into accumulation units of the fund at the price ruling on the close of business following receipt of payment. Income net of basic rate tax is automatically reinvested to increase their value. Higher rate taxpayers will have a further liability to tax. Non-taxpayers can reclaim the tax credit from the Inland Revenue.

Capital gains tax 1989/90: An individual's first £5,000 of net capital gains is exempt from tax. Gains in excess of £5,000 are added to the individual's other income and taxed at the rates of tax applicable. Gains arising before 31st March 1982 are

Value of £35 a month invested from the launch of M&G Recovery Fund.

Year ended	Amount invested	Building Society	M&G Recovery
31 December			
23 May 89	£35	£35	£35
1989	245	249	266
1970	665	693	679
1971	1,085	1,159	1,684
1972	1,505	1,647	2,289
1973	1,925	2,191	2,728
1974	2,345	2,797	2,129
1975	2,765	3,439	4,222
1976	3,185	4,120	4,752
1977	3,605	4,849	10,969
1978	4,025	5,602	14,112
1979	4,445	6,525	17,352
1980	4,865	7,662	20,353
1981	5,285	8,823	24,229
1982	5,705	10,057	28,446
1983	6,125	11,238	33,857
1984	6,545	12,562	45,126
1985	6,965	14,118	57,350
1986	7,385	15,671	85,489
1987	7,805	17,324	107,124
1988	8,225	18,999	126,989
1989	8,645	21,201	156,104

Notes: All figures include the effect of income tax and basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on the weekly rate of 1.5p per unit. The M&G Recovery figures are all realisation values. An investment of £35 a month in M&G Recovery Fund from 31st December 1984 (£2,100) would have grown to £3,493 by 29th December 1989 with net income reinvested. *Estimated.

not now subject to capital gains tax and gains since 31st March 1982 are subject to indexation relief.

You can buy or sell units on any business day by written instruction. When you realise your holding you will normally receive a cheque within a few days. The Trustee for Recovery Fund is Barclays Bank Trust Co. Limited. The Fund is a wider range investment and is authorised under the Financial Services Act 1986.

Scheme Particulars and the Rules of the Plan will be sent on receipt of your application. However, if you before investing you can obtain them free of charge from M&G Securities Limited, 100 Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1FB. Tel (0245) 266266.

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TO: M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, M&G HOUSE, VICTORIA ROAD, CHELMSFORD CM1 1FB.

I/we wish to subscribe £ .00 (minimum £35) each month to the M&G Recovery Unit Trust Savings Plan and I/we enclose a cheque (made payable to M&G Securities Limited) for my/our first subscription of £ .00 (You may wish to start your plan with a lump sum).

The units will be registered in the name of M&G Securities Limited and held for your account under the Rules of the Plan, a copy of which is available on request. In entering into this contract you will not have any right to cancel under the Financial Services (Cancellation) Rules 1989. The operation of your account will be subject to the Rules of the Plan.

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FAMILY MONEY

Jon Ashworth sizes up the very latest in Business Expansion Schemes

Artesian aims for capital for its assured tenancies

Mention a company with the name "Artesian" and one might think of drilling rigs, desert scrub and underground lakes. But Artesian II, which is setting out to raise £5 million from investors, has its eye on things other than water.

Artesian's roots lie closer to home. It wants to raise the money to buy homes in London and lease them on assured tenancies, drawing on the income and leaving room to develop the properties later on. Not surprisingly, it is using the tax advantages of the Business Expansion Scheme to make the offer more attractive.

There are enough BES assured tenancies available at the moment to satisfy most tastes. And most of them have a "recognized" name to back them up, be it Johnson Fry, Chancery or Neill Clerk.

Artesian II is different because it has no sponsor and — as the name suggests — is in its second issue. When it went on offer this time last year, the first version raised over £4 million, and its backers are hoping for more of the same.

Mr Richard Breen and Mr Richard Smith, the force behind Artesian, know what they are looking for. "Our overall objective is a stock market flotation as a property development company," said Mr Breen, chairman of Artesian and a director of Broadwell Land, a property developer which followed a similar route to the Unilever Securities Market in 1983.

"We don't see it as just a sleepy unit trust shelter investment," said Mr Smith, managing director of the company. "Our objective is to create a substantial public quoted property development



and investment company."

To do so, Artesian needs capital, and it has already invested £2.6 million of the 1989 proceeds in a handful of "strategic" properties in and around London. All can be redeveloped after the four-year gap required under the BES, using rents and interest on remaining cash for a yield in the meantime.

Artesian has its eye on homes which can either be split into flats or perhaps have an extension or two added to enhance the value. It may also purchase a property alongside a plot marked for redevelopment, helping it to ride on the back of any later gains.

The slump in house sales and high cost of borrowing

make this the best time to buy, the backers say. "You invest during the slump and wait for the cycle to swing round," said Mr Smith.

Investors may find themselves wary of backing a scheme with no sponsor to back it up. But Artesian I was billed as one of the best unsponsored issues available, while Airways Homes I, which was also unsponsored, became the most successful single BES of the year.

Going it alone can save as much as £50,000 in sponsorship fees. On top of that, the backers are underwriting £1 million of the issue themselves, doing away with expensive underwriting fees.

If the full £5 million is

raised, a maximum £180,000 will be paid in costs and commission. The directors are rewarded handsomely — but only once investors are guaranteed a fixed yield.

Higher rate taxpayers must be certain of a yield of 20 per cent annually, before the directors take their cut. At that time, the return would be a sizeable 24 per cent of the company itself, working out at £3 million on paper between nine directors.

The bottom line, though, is that Artesian II is investing with property speculation in mind. Assured tenancies are relatively safe investments, but the element of risk is always there. The offer closes on March 20.

Investors invited to climb aboard

Ships, universities and even the Lake District rub shoulders in the latest batch of BES issues. One of the more colourful entrants is Carisbrook Shipping which, unlike many of the schemes, can look back on a track record of over 20 years.

When Carisbrook was founded on the Isle of Wight in 1969, it had just one small ship to its name. It now owns five, with one more on the way, and hopes to act as manager to four others.

"We are now poised to expand considerably," said Mrs Greta Croucher, who took over the running of the company after her husband died in 1981. "BES investors are invited to climb aboard."

Chancery, which is sponsoring the issue, said the company would benefit from an increase in trade with the Continent, as European markets begin to open up. Carisbrook expects to announce pre-tax profits of £600,000 for 1989 — well up on £350,000 in 1988.

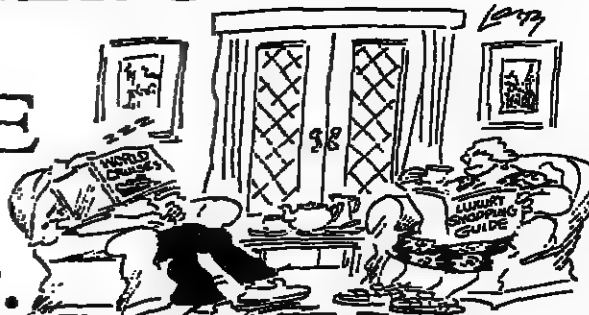
The Lake District makes its debut on the BES stage with the help of Sun Life Investment Management, which is launching the fourth version of its popular ResRes scheme.

While ResRes Lakeland focuses on homes in the Lake District, ResRes Campus has pitched itself at the student market. It plans to buy accommodation on a university campus, with the university undertaking to buy it back after five years at a premium of 30 per cent of the price paid.

The scheme opens next week, and is due to close on April 5. Minimum investment is £5,000.

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Airways Homes' flying start

When Mr Steven Rowe dreamed up Airways Homes in October 1989, he knew it had a good chance of success.

What he did not know was that it would become one of the most popular Business Expansion Schemes ever, easily attracting the maximum £5 million allowed under the BES rules.

Since Airways Homes II was launched three weeks ago, it has taken in well over £2 million, much of it in spill-over from the first issue. Between them, the issues have raised more than £6.5 million — a fifth of the money raised by all the Assured Tenancies in the 1989-90 tax year.

"Some people say the issue is only successful because it has a big name — British Airways — behind it," said Mr Rowe, a director of the BES Housing Partnership. "But the prospectus is clear and easy to read, and investors have a sound exit route after five years."

The Airways Housing Trust, which is managing the properties, has said it intends to buy back shares from any investors who would like to sell at that time. By then, there is also every chance that the company will have floated on the Stock Exchange, giving investors an easy exit route.

"There may be as many as nine Airways companies by then, making it quite big enough for a listing," said Mr Rowe. "New issues will follow as long as there is a demand from investors."

Mr Rowe, who is a consul-



"It's the quality of the company that counts," Steven Rowe, chairman of Airways Homes, warned anyone thinking of a BES to look at the quality of management rather than just the tax savings. "They should see saving tax as an added bonus, but it's the quality of the company that counts."

Surprisingly few of the 1,350 original Airways investors have anything to do with flying. They include accountants, solicitors and other professionals, in their forties and fifties and "reasonably affluent."

British Airways has 32,000 employees based near Heathrow, and has the right to nominate them as tenants for any homes bought by Airways

We'd rather not talk about 1983.

We'd rather not talk about 1983, nor would we wish to talk about any other year in isolation, even those in which we came first.

That is because coming top one year, as many financial experts say, is not so important as consistency of performance.

It's The Equitable Life's track record of performance that we wish to talk about.

Since 1974 Planned Savings magazine has published annual surveys of money paid out by regular contribution with-profits personal pension plans over 10, 15 and 20 year terms.

Out of the 29 tables published, The Equitable Life has come top in 14 and second in 7 more.

In fact, we have not been lower than third in 23 tables and never out of the top ten.

No other company comes close to our record of achievement.

Nor should you think that there is little difference in the investment returns of these companies.

For example, if you had retired on 1.1.89 aged 65 you would have been 48% better off with an Equitable 20 year regular contribution with-profits plan compared with the worst performer.*

1977 1st	1987 1st
1978 1st	1988 1st
1979 2nd	1989 3rd
1980 1st	
1981 2nd	
1982 3rd	
1983 4th	
1984 2nd	
1985 1st	
1986 1st	

PERSONAL PENSION PLANS PAST PERFORMANCE
The honours board above shows The Equitable's position in surveys of actual results for 20 year regular contribution with-profits personal pension plans carried out by Planned Savings magazine 1977-1989.

What is responsible for this unrivalled track record?

A major factor is our unerring refusal to pay commission to brokers or other middlemen.

Another Equitable feature is that we spend a smaller proportion of your money on running the business than any of our rivals. In a survey of expenses carried out by Money Management magazine in November 1989, The Equitable Life had the lowest ratio of expenses to premium income of all the companies surveyed.

And, as a mutual society, The Equitable Life has no shareholders to nibble away at the profits. The profits belong entirely to the with-profits policyholders.

You can be forgiven, therefore, for thinking that all of those factors give us an unfair advantage over our competitors and that little else is required. There is, however, one other element to be mentioned, our expert investment team.

Now managing funds in excess of £5 billion, our investment managers' track

record is amply demonstrated by the honours board illustrated here.

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INDEPENDENT

George Leicester explains why managed currency funds may be staging a comeback

How to cut the cost of that expensive holiday in Spain

Anyone who has been in Spain recently, will appreciate how much currency movements hurt. The Spanish peseta is now part of the European Monetary System, so is linked to the mark. Since the pound has been badly down against the mark, tourists suddenly find Spain is not a cheap place.

Yet turning the tables on this looks difficult. The currency casino appears to be highly speculative, best left alone. And yet a holiday in Europe shows how quickly falls in sterling eat away at savings. This is why managed currency funds may be staging a comeback.

The managers take the cash and invest it in foreign currency deposits. The aim is to outpace the inflation rate against their view of which currencies are due to go down or up against sterling.

The idea is a good one, yet these funds have been slow to take off, partly because many people remain unsure of how they work. They are also based offshore, usually in the Channel Islands. This alone puts some savers off, even when the fund is managed by a household name in the investment business.

In recent years, managed currency funds have been in the doldrums. In the year to June 1, 1989, for example, the average fund made only 13 per cent on your money. Why?

Because sterling had combined stability with high interest rates, so it was impossible for Britons to make money by betting on the mark or the dollar. Mr William MacDougall, of Hill



Samuel's currency fund, said: "Until early 1988, the best thing to do was to be 100 per cent in sterling." But not any more.

The markets have now seen through the talk about economic miracles and so sterling has collapsed against the mark.

Mr Nigel Lawson, the former Chancellor, once thought that the level of DM3 to the pound had to be defended at all costs. Today, the rate is DM2.80 - about 7 per cent less. The managed currency fund was invented by Mr Howard Flight of Guinness

Mahon, the fund group. He launched his fund in 1980, soon after exchange controls were scrapped.

He recalls: "I always thought that everyone had a secret desire to have some cash out of sterling simply because it had been forbidden for so long."

He thinks the pound is likely to fall to DM2.40 by the end of the year - a devaluation of about 12 per cent. This is, he says, because "the economic cycle is now the political cycle and, as the run-up to an election approaches, it will become attractive to let

sterling slide a bit." So, throw in the interest on your money and bailing out of sterling could mean a return of approaching 20 per cent.

Unfortunately, professional currency management costs money. Guinness's fund charges 4 per cent up front, while Hill Samuel charges 5 per cent. There is also an annual charge as well - usually about 0.75 per cent.

This means that it is not really worth using currency funds for short-term cash. Investors need to be thinking of leaving it there for two years or so. Currency funds

will appeal mainly to investors who are scared of stock markets and want to do better than leaving their cash in the bank.

Even though stock markets are on the up, many people have stayed on the sidelines, fearful of another mini-crash, as happened last October.

Currencies do not behave that way, which means currency funds can be a haven of stability in uncertain markets. Mr MacDougall says: "You cannot have a bear market in currencies, because as one currency goes down, another must be going up."

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SAVE & PROSPER
THE INVESTMENT HOME

Have a care when contracting out

A new drive is under way to encourage the millions of people still in the State pension scheme to contract out before April 5.

While the decision makes sense for many they need to be very careful in their choice of provider. Charges on personal pensions vary widely, and can make "going private" seem far less attractive.

While every plan carries an upfront charge and an annual management fee, it is the extra charges on top which can make all the difference. Once some companies have added a

setting up charge and slapped on an extra monthly fee, the amount of money invested on your behalf can sometimes fall dramatically.

In the best cases, nearly 95 per cent of the money channelled into a personal pension by the Government would be invested. In others, the amount could fall to nearer 70 per cent - greatly reducing the chance of attractive returns.

Taking two cases, NPI and GRE each charge 5 per cent upfront along with a 0.75 per cent annual fee on its rebate. Only personal pensions. But

once GRE has added a £140 "setting up charge" along with a monthly fee of 24p the amount of rebate invested falls dramatically.

On a rebate of £1,241 - the amount due for 1989/90 on a salary of £16,900 - £210 would be taken in charges by GRE, against only £71.36 on NPI's policy.

On a rebate of £602, due on a salary of £9,350, only 71.25 per cent would be invested by GRE against 94.25 per cent by NPI. GRE would charge £173, while NPI would charge only £34.60. Taking performance

over the last five years, £1,241 invested with NPI would have grown to £2,418. With GRE it would have reached £1,602. A rebate of £602 would have doubled with NPI, but reached only £650 with GRE.

Top players include Royal, NPI, Scottish Equitable, Scottish Amicable and Eagle Star, according to NPI. An investment of £600 with Royal over 30 years may produce a return of nearly £105,000, against £96,000 for one of the worst performers.

Jon Ashworth

Beware the pension losses in switching employment

A telephone call comes with an offer of an executive job. The salary is nearly 40 per cent more than present. But beware. It might be better to bid goodbye to that attractive salary.

Consider the present company pension scheme. Is it more valuable than the package on offer? On pre-1989 company pension schemes, the only restrictions on tax relief for pension contributions were age-related. As an example, between 36 and 45 years, tax relief could be obtained on pension contributions at 17.5 per cent "now 20 per cent of earnings, however high."

New company pension schemes have an earnings limit of £60,000. However large those sums may now seem, 20 to 30 years' inflation soon alters that picture. And the £60,000 "cap" is linked to prices, not average earnings. The latter invariably outstrip the former.

Clay & Partners, the salary surveyers, shows that an employee aged 35 with earnings increas-

ing by 3 per cent a year more than prices, needs £24,700 per annum at recruitment to equal £60,000 (in today's prices), on retirement at 65. At recruitment ages 45 and 55, the figures are £33,200 and £44,600 yearly. Large numbers of people could be caught by these new limits.

Consider also the current pension benefits. Do they stay where they are, or are they transferred to the new company scheme or to a personal pension? The decisions affect not only the contributor's benefits but also those of the spouse, for example the widow's pension.

Part of the higher salary offered might be invested to compensate for pension "loss" but, unlike pension contributions, it is taxable at the highest rate. A PEP could be a good solution.

If the company already operates an "approved" scheme, it might set up an unapproved one for an individual. Though tax has to be paid on the employer's contributions and any the employee makes, the

whole amount can be taken at retirement as tax free cash. Part could then buy an annuity; a more tax efficient route than taking part pension, part cash, for some of the annuity will be treated as (untaxed) return of capital.

Unapproved unfunded pension schemes, common in the US and West Germany, are cheaper for the employer to run, but the benefits depend on the company's growth. The tax is on lump sums or pensions paid out not on the employer's contributions.

The present company may also have an approved executive share option scheme allowing shares to be bought in the company at the market price. Check the rules. Usually the option cannot be exercised for three years. If the shares are sold before tax will have to be paid, based on the market price at the date of sale. After three years, profits on sales are subject to gains tax; better this, than letting the option lapse.

Jennie Hawthorne

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FAMILY MONEY

Plan if you will but watch the clauses

Sara McConnell
on repayment
protection
and the need
to cover small
print with care

The latest rise in interest rates will make lenders keener than ever to sell borrowers mortgage repayment protection with their mortgage. A plan covers payments for up to two years in the event of long-term illness or redundancy.

These plans should not be confused with term assurance, which pays off the whole mortgage in the event of death, or permanent health insurance, which pays out an income to those with a long term illness but does not specifically cover mortgage repayments.

But scrutinize the small print before starting to pay the monthly premiums, as most plans will have a long list of exclusion clauses. Some of these may make a plan an unnecessary expense, particularly for those stretched to the limit with high payments.

All plans offered by building societies, banks and specialist lenders impose a waiting period, not paying out for the first 30, 60 or even 90 days after the policyholder has put in a claim. So if you are ill for a day less than the waiting period in most cases you receive no payment.

But lenders claim that most borrowers would have some form of sickness benefit or a lump sum, if they had been made redundant, to cover them over the waiting period.

But those without savings or an understanding employer



prepared to pay sickness benefit or redundancy money must rely on an understanding lender. Some will allow borrowers to spread the first two or three monthly payments, after a claim is made, over the rest of the year.

"With our disability and redundancy scheme there is an eight-week waiting time but we can put those first two payments into limbo and the borrower can pay off that interest later. We would look at each case individually," said Mr Dave Charlton, the Skipton Building Society's assistant general manager.

The waiting period is to discourage those with relatively minor illnesses from claiming and receiving an immediate payout. Lenders point out that if an illness is serious it will continue past the waiting period and qualify for payouts.

Most plans contain other exclusion clauses, generally

including pre-existing illnesses, Aids and seasonal and voluntary redundancies. The policy may not pay out if the underwriter suspects a claimant of taking out a policy knowing he or she was about to be made redundant.

"If someone makes a claim within six months of taking out the policy, the underwriter will ask if the redundancy was known," said Nationwide Anglia.

Insuring against such frequent occurrences as redundancy and illness is a high risk for underwriters which explains why this sort of cover is expensive.

But if plans were not hedged round with exclusions the cost would be even higher. Monthly premiums are normally about £4 per £100 of monthly mortgage repayment which may or may not include the monthly endowment premium. After making a claim and allowing for the waiting

period, the mortgage would be paid for up to two years, depending on policy terms.

The charges and conditions will vary. The Mortgage Corporation charges 5 per cent of the monthly payment being covered, and the borrower decides whether to include the endowment in this amount.

The Skipton has two plans, one covering disability and redundancy and one covering sickness and accident. Insuring against redundancy costs £4.80 per £100 of monthly payment while sickness costs £4 per £100.

But an extra £20 a month for covering a £500 monthly mortgage bill at £4 per £100 is often too much for some buyers and only about one in 10 takes out the cover.

"The cover's major selling point is peace of mind," said Mrs Caroline Blackman-Mack, marketing manager of John Charcol, the independent mortgage adviser.

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St Michael
TMA

Rolling-up can spell trouble

By Mike Goodman

As mortgage rates soar towards record levels, many borrowers may find themselves taking a closer look at schemes which defer interest or fix the rate for a year or more. For others, a re-mortgage is the only solution.

Current deals include an 11.49 per cent "stabilized payment rate" loan from National Home Loans - a response to a similar product offered from the Mortgage Corporation which offers a 12.5 per cent "payment rate."

While the borrower pays this lower rate, the lender adds on interest to the loan at its current variable rate. As it is now 15.75 per cent, the "deferred interest" element swells the outstanding debt.

Unless the variable rate falls in the medium term, the debt continues to rise. Only if it

falls below the payment rate, will the borrower be able to clear this extra debt.

NHL, the Mortgage Corporation, the Bank of Ireland and other lenders who offer this stabilizer therefore put a limit on this "rolled-up debt" and try to fix the payment rate at about the long-term mortgage rate of 12 per cent, so the rolled-up debt will slowly rise and fall over the long run.

The Market Harborough Building Society has launched a "Safe Harbour" loan where the payment rate starts at 4 per cent below the current interest rate and the actual monthly repayments are increased 5 per cent a year for the term of the mortgage.

Many advisers dislike these deferred-interest loans as they could store up trouble in the future for borrowers. The sim-

pler, and safer alternative, is a mortgage with a fixed-interest rate for the first year or two but no interest "roll-up."

One of the more ingenious offers comes from First Mortgage Securities which offers a "stepping-down" with a fixed rate of 13.49 per cent for the first year, 13.24 per cent in the second and 12.99 per cent in the third, a structure which evidently anticipates mortgage rates coming down.

First Direct has launched a 12.99 per cent rate fixed for two years. The low rate, it claims, results from the lower costs through not having a branch network.

For borrowers who have heavy overdraft or unsecured loan payments in addition to a mortgage, a re-mortgage to clear these debts, makes financial sense, in the short term.

LETTERS

Higher interest does not boost savings

From Mrs Joan Cannon
Sir, Surely it is crazy of the Abbey National Bank to give as the reason for a further increase in mortgage rates the low level of savings being deposited, when the low level is due largely to increased

mortgage rates, and Christmas?

Your correspondent Mr Saunders (Business Letters February 13) asks how the extra cash can be found by the low-paid. How indeed? Savings are the first thing to go.

It would be interesting to know the average of savings held at any high street branch. I suspect that the majority belong to minimal savers like me. I do not feel persuaded to save more by the promise of a little bit more interest, and if, as one suspects, young home-buyers are being rooted to meet share-holders' dividends, it is unnecessary and despicable. I do propose moving my savings from the Abbey National to any building society which does not intend to raise mortgage rate, and promise to read unsolicited mail.

Yours sincerely,
JOAN CANNON,
12 Collier Way,
Stapleford,
Cambridge.

Tax anomaly

From Mr Brian Whittingham
Sir, May I draw attention to an anomaly which can impinge unfairly on the recently bereaved?

Equity holdings are valued for inheritance tax purposes as at the date of death, yet those sold months later in order to discharge liability to the Inland Revenue may have become worth considerably less (to the detriment of the Estate) or more (to the disadvantage of the State).

Bearing in mind that in the course of 12 months the price of an individual share can fluctuate by a pound or more, would it not be more equitable for Inheritance Tax to be levied on an established average price over a period of at least six and possibly 12 months?

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN WHITTINGHAM,
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TY 24/02/90

FAMILY MONEY

Digging around for bargains among Britain's ancient sites

Even a little bit of history suffers from the age of inflation.

Suitably tipped, Conal Gregory takes us on a guided tour

Anyone planning a visit to Britain's historic sites this Spring may pay a lot more for the privilege. Yet careful planning can take a lot of the sting out of the latest price increases. By shopping around it should be possible to enjoy a full 1990 programme and even longer on last year's prices.

The National Trust covers 297 sites in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, of which 190 are houses and castles.

Apart from free entry to its own sites, membership brings complementary admission to affiliated sites even in Canada and New Zealand, as well as its magazine three times a year.

Individual subscription is £19 but another person at the same address may join for just £10, and the under-23 rate is only £7.50.

Life membership has recently risen from £350 to £425. Retired people can join for £12.50 or, as a couple, for £20.50 with a lower life rate of £27.50 and £35.00 respectively.

Better value is provided by joining The National Trust for Scotland although it has only 197,000 members to The National Trust's 1.8 million. The annual rate is only £15 and joint one £24.50 with the elderly rates £7.50 single and £12.25 OAP couple.



Craigievar Castle: one of the many fine properties in care of the National Trust for Scotland

Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man all have their own schemes, although The National Trust for Jersey is restricted to residents. The annual rate is £5 for adults and just £2 for those under 16. Its mill at Quetivel is one of over 120 properties under their care which receives keen attention in the summer.

The National Trust of Guernsey costs only £6 for membership and £10 joint with £4 per child. The life rate is £100. Apart from Guernsey's Folk Museum, which normally costs £1.50 for entry

and 80p per child, there is, for island residents, complementary admission elsewhere.

The Friends of the Manx National Trust charges £3.50 membership, whether an adult or child but a husband and wife can have joint membership for £5.

The life rate is only £35 for an individual or £50 for a married couple. The Isle of Man has three museums, charming Laxey Wheel, two castles and a Viking boat at Peel. Membership of the Historic Houses Association at £16 is reduced to £14 if you are

a member of the Country Landowners Association, National Art Collections Fund or the National Art and Decorative Fine Arts Society.

Similarly, the joint annual subscription of £25.50 is cut to £20.50 if a member of one of these three bodies. The Association has 290 properties with such attractive venues as Beaulieu, Blenheim, Castle Howard, Haver Castle and Bowood House, Wiltshire.

The Scottish Historic Buildings and Monuments of the Scottish Development Department, marketed as "His-

toric Scotland", have the price edge over their opposite numbers.

The annual subscription is £10 and joint rate £15, and an elderly person may join for £5 or a retired couple for £7.50. The family rate of £15 covers all youth up to 16 years although there is a separate rate of £5 to cover up to 21 years.

Cadw, meaning "to keep" or "to preserve" is the marketing arm of Welsh Historic Monuments. It issues a newsletter to members three times a year and looks after 127 properties. The individual annual rate is £10 but there is no joint rate.

The OAP level is £8 while the £20 family membership covers a couple and up to three children under 16 years. There is a youngster rate of £8 to student age and life membership of £160 per individual and £200 joint.

English Heritage plans to raise its entry rates on April 1. Currently its subscriptions are £12.50 per individual and £22.50 for joint with a pensioner charged £9 and a retired couple £16 at the same address. The family rate of £25 covers all young persons under 21.

The life rate of £250 single and £325 joint with English Heritage does permit one guest admission in addition to the member, unlike the scheme in Scotland.

There is a pensioner life rate of £190 for those over 60 years and £240 for a retired couple. However, they can take up to four children under 16 years in sites like Stonehenge, Dover Castle and Rievaulx Abbey, which should appeal to many a grandparent.

PORTFOLIO PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 21).

1	+5	+5	+8	+1	+8
2	+5	+1	+3	+2	+3
3	+7	+2	+2	+3	+8
4	+4	+3	+2	+2	+5
5	+6	+3	+1	+5	+7
6	+6	+2	+4	+2	+5
7	+6	+1	+2	+3	+5
8	+3	+4	+2	+2	+5
9	+5	+3	+2	+3	+8
10	+7	+1	+1	+3	+4
11	+5	+2	+1	+4	+4
12	+8	+3	+2	+5	+7
13	+6	+1	+1	+3	+3
14	+4	+1	+5	+2	+3
15	+4	+5	+2	+1	+4
16	+6	+1	+1	+2	+7
17	+4	+3	+1	+1	+8
18	+7	+1	+3	+3	+7
19	+4	+2	+3	+3	+4
20	+4	+5	+4	+2	+4
21	+6	+2	+1	+3	+8
22	+5	+2	+4	+1	+5
23	+5	+1	+1	+2	+3
24	+4	+1	+3	+1	+4
25	+3	+3	+1	+1	+8
26	+5	+2	+2	+4	+7
27	+6	+1	+1	+5	+5
28	+5	+1	+4	+1	+3
29	+5	+4	+2	+1	+5
30	+6	+1	+3	+3	+3
31	+8	+2	+3	+5	+6
32	+5	+1	+5	+3	+4
33	+5	+1	+1	+4	+3
34	+3	+3	+2	+1	+8
35	+4	+3	+2	+1	+5
36	+6	+1	+2	+2	+5
37	+4	+1	+3	+2	+4
38	+7	+2	+1	+2	+4
39	+7	+2	+3	+3	+8
40	+5	+1	+1	+1	+4
41	+5	+3	+2	+1	+5
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43	+5	+1	+2	+6	+4
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FAMILY MONEY

Computer matching takes pain out of property deals

Moving costs are now being cut by swap schemes.

Tim Cockerell looks at a way

past estate agents, property chains and stamp duty

Weary home-sellers may at last have found a way to take some of the cost out of selling a property, thanks to the rise of new schemes that puts buyers and sellers in touch directly.

The Berkshire-based Property Register and the West Country's CAPRA Property Exchange Directory put buyers and sellers in touch with minimum time-wasting and expense.

The key in each case is a computer that draws on a detailed database to match needs and tastes.

Miss Rose Lee, who runs Property Register, says that there is still demand for property, despite talk of a downturn.

A lot of the activity can be attributed to the high level of interest rates, which is forcing many people to "move down market", shedding what, a year ago, seemed to be sound investments.

Private speculators who bought three or four flats or houses during, or at the start of, the property boom are now finding the incoming rent for these no longer meets the mortgage repayments.

They have flooded the market, but many of their properties attract a new type of buyer - the one who is not mortgaged to the hilt and who will buy if it turns out to be cheaper than renting.

"Many buyers still believe in the property ladder," says Miss Lee. "But unless there



Rose Lee: still finding demand in the property market

are special circumstances, it is unlikely that a house's increasing value will ultimately result in a move to something better."

In many cases, young first-time buyers could be better off renting.

Miss Lee said: "They should look carefully at their monthly outgoings - often the equivalent of a £50,000 flat with a monthly mortgage repayment of £300 could be rented for less than half that cost."

Paying rent may, therefore, not mean money down the drain. Now, according to Miss Lee, with a shortage of first-time buyers - whether by

choice or circumstance - depress the property market further.

"People need to move down market to cope with crippling mortgage repayments," she said. "Many are choosing to do so in conjunction with a job relocation move, with or without company help."

Another growth area that equates to the first-time bracket is that of people retiring and wanting to buy smaller or cheaper homes to fit in with reduced incomes.

The Property Register, set up nine months ago, also deals with house-hunters living abroad who are either returning or looking for a UK base.

Clients pay a £30 registration fee and, if a sale is successful, 0.25 per cent of the sale price.

They must supply full details of their sale property and of the home they require; house-type, age, size, location, price and special features are all taken into account.

Details are entered on the database and matched to the needs of a buyer. Once matched, the house sale goes through the normal channels.

CAPRA Property Exchange is an expansion of a Torquay relocation agency run by Paul and Angela Curd. Clients do not have to be on the relocation books and the couple are spreading their net well beyond the West Country.

One of the main attractions of exchanging houses is the absence of 1 per cent stamp duty - unless there is a cash difference of more than £30,000. Mortgages are transferred, and where there is no price difference, no money changes hands. There are also no estate agents or property chains involved, because buyers and sellers do a direct swap.

Mr Curd said: "We try to keep costs as low as possible and charge no commission on successful exchanges."

CAPRA clients also supply property details and pay a basic £12.95 for inclusion in five editions of a fortnightly listing of properties available for exchange. Houses and descriptions are listed by reference number, which gives security until viewing requests come in.

Both services advise clients to have a realistic property valuation and survey carried out - instead of basing prices solely on an estate agent's recommendations or pushing them up because they have a new kitchen or a slightly larger garden than a neighbour.

Special features, rather than price factors, are selling points. And in today's depressed market, it is the sale and any corresponding savings on sale costs that count.

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When neighbours are simply not meant for one another

When builders move in next door, neighbourliness may move out. Disputes over damage allegedly caused by conversion or other work in an adjacent property are not reducing as a new decade of the "selfish society" unfolds.

Traditional courtesies like advance notice to neighbours are being dispensed with, while "most builders" have taken to working on the pre-emptive strike principle - quickly in, quickly out, and worry about complaints later.

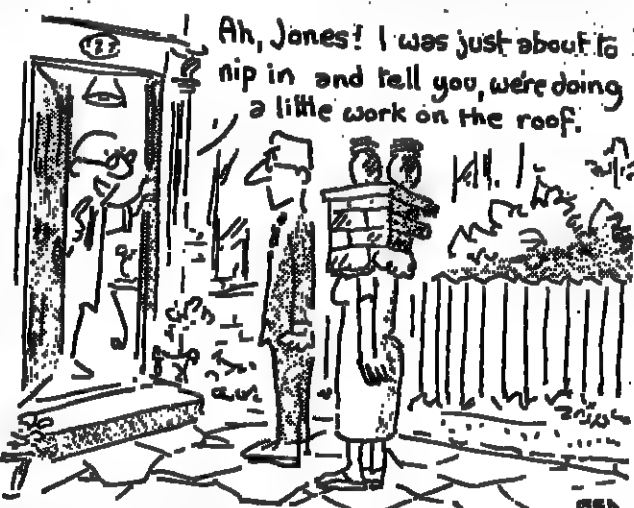
The words in quotes are those of building surveyor Professor Malcolm Hollis, a senior spokesman for the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, who adds that lack of communication is "leading to problems."

A recent example was the householder awoken early one morning by an alarming series of structural vibrations; they were caused by a mechanical digger whose scoop was being used like a sledge-hammer to break up an old concrete driveway in an adjoining garden.

When she protested, the unsupervised young contract labourer continued his work more appropriately with a pneumatic drill. The woman's house drain, which ran directly under the drive, survived unscathed.

Other home-owners are less fortunate. Sometimes, the signs of damage - a fine crack in the wall plaster, subsidence where foundations have been disturbed - do not appear until months or years later.

There are several dozen such cases annually. Where



they result in compensation claims, the burden of proving a link usually rests with the complainant. "Quality of evidence" is crucial, Professor Hollis points out.

Outside the capital - where relevant rights and responsibilities are defined under the London Building Acts (Amendment) Act 1939 - there is less control, and similarly less awareness about the protective value of a "schedule of condition."

No strict definition exists, but this essentially comprises an independent record of a building at a particular time.

More prevalent due to the growing need and customarily prepared by a qualified surveyor, this document can be produced to support a claim in or out of court, also to refute any counter-assertion about pre-existing damage or dilapidation.

Backed with black and white photographs it provides

very useful if not necessarily conclusive testimony.

Situations where a schedule can prove a prudent safeguard against a neighbour's denial of responsibility include work on a party wall (the likelihood of damage is greater where an extra load is imposed and the work is poorly done), roofs, drains, and exterior landscaping (tree removal, from clay soil especially, can lead to building settlement).

To have value as evidence, or as leverage in negotiating remedial measures, a schedule must be prepared before the work starts.

Damage tends to occur close to where work is done, so instruct your surveyor in writing as to likely susceptible areas.

His charge will probably not be less than £50. But you will be buying peace of mind at the very least.

Charles Kersley

Clearing logjam on estates

Following the death of his uncle in March 1989, Mr Michael McRitchie arranged with his solicitor to transfer the house, which had been in his uncle's name, to his widowed aunt and also to make

her will. What he did not know was that what at first seemed a straightforward transfer of a deceased relative's estate to his widow's name would take seven months to complete.

After numerous telephone calls and considerable anxiety, Mr McRitchie decided to take his aunt's case to the Law Society of Northern Ireland.

He wrote to the society to complain, only to be told that it is not unusual for an estate to take more than a year to wind up in the most simple situation.

"The society would not therefore regard a period of seven months between the date of death and registration of title as an unnecessary delay," the reply said.

But the logjam was cleared and the matter resolved within the next two weeks of him writing.

According to the Law Society of Northern Ireland, there can be several reasons to

explain a delay. Among them, the State has to be satisfied no taxes are due, with inquiries by the Inland Revenue being the most common reason.

The court has to be satisfied that it is the last will conveyed and that the person applying for a grant of probate is the correct person to whom the assets are due.

The larger and more complicated the estate, the longer it will take to effect a transfer - sometimes years. More often than not it is not a solicitor who causes delays, but inadequacies of the system.

The question is not just one of whether Mr McRitchie's solicitor took unreasonably long to transact the seemingly straightforward transfer during a difficult emotional time, but the amount of time which appears to be required to transact "straightforward" matters.

Philip Pangalos

مكذبا من الأصل

FAMILY MONEY

Jon Ashworth traces the funding route of a new shopping centre

Lakeside journeys from Transvaal to the Thames

Britain's newest shopping complex will open for business off the M25 motorway East of London, later this year. Just north of the Dartford tunnel in Essex, the £300 million Thurrock Lakeside Shopping Centre will join Brent Cross, Milton Keynes, and Newcastle's Metro Centre as one of the Britain's premier shopping areas.

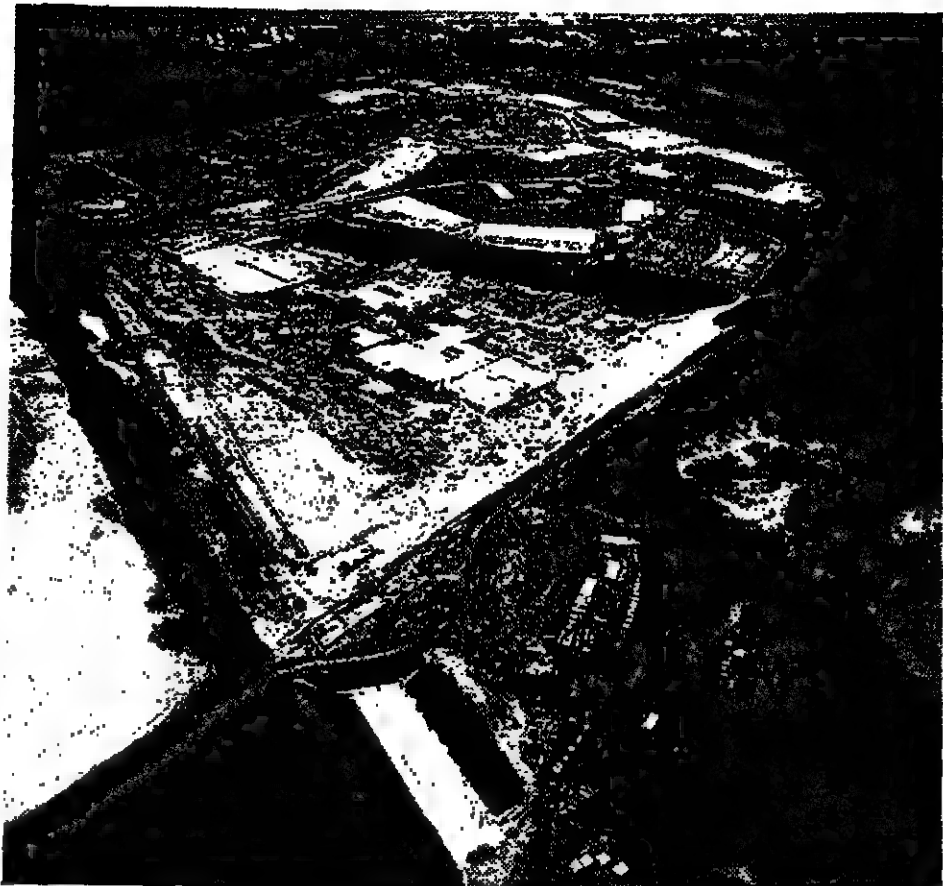
The development includes four department stores and 250 shops spread over two levels for a quarter of a mile with fountains, trees, and 9,000 car spaces.

Lakeside is more than just another shopping centre. It is part of a financial web spanning two continents and drawing together some of the world's most influential business minds.

It begins with Capital & Counties, the British property company specialising in shopping schemes and ends in Johannesburg with Mr Donald Gordon, who as chairman of Liberty Life, the South African insurer, has left a lasting mark on British financial services.

The lynch-pin is TransAtlantic Holdings, a Luxembourg company formed in 1980 to invest in Britain. The association gives Liberty a window into British property and financial services.

When it is finished, Thurrock Lakeside will take its place at the centre of Liberty's international holdings. Mr John Abel, a director of Capital & Counties, said it had been in the planning stages since 1984. Three years of discussions with the local authority and County Council



Jewel in Liberty's property crown: the Lakeside complex by the M25 at the north end of the Dartford Tunnel will transform old gravel pits with a 10-cinema complex and waterfront centre

were followed by a public inquiry in 1987. The scheme was approved, and construction began in September 1988.

Today, Lakeside is well on course for its October opening. At least 2,000 people are working on site, using a "fast track" building technique

around a theme lake. Marks and Spencer, John Lewis, Debenhams and House of Fraser will display their wares beside many smaller retailers.

With high mortgage rates biting into family budgets, this may not seem the best time to launch a new shopping com-

plex. But with 11 million people - a fifth of the Britain's population - within an hour's drive, the developers feel it is a safe bet.

"This is the biggest project the company has done so far," said Mr Abel. "At 2 million sq ft it is one of the largest in

Europe." Capital & Counties has turned its attention to the M25. Work is underway on a shopping centre in Bromley, Kent, and plans another at Watford, Hertfordshire.

In the past, TransAtlantic has been better known for its stake in Sun Life than an interest in British property. While the company seems set to maintain its 29.8 per cent "for strategic reasons," investment in property is the theme for the 1990s.

Mr Gordon, chairman of TransAtlantic, said last year: "Whilst the Sun Life holding is of strategic significance, it can no longer be seen as the dominant factor in the business of TransAtlantic."

The link with Britain goes back to 1958, when Liberty Life was founded. Two former colleagues, Sir Mark Weinberg and Mr Sidney Lipworth, hold influential positions in Britain, in life assurance and financial regulation.

Sir Mark pioneered a new approach to unit-linked assurance, first through Abbey Life, and later through Allied Dunbar of which he remains chairman. Mr Lipworth was appointed chairman of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in 1987.

A third colleague, Mr Michael Rapp, has taken more than a passing interest in the Thurrock Lakeside development. Now deputy chairman of Capital & Counties, he played a leading role in the construction of Johannesburg's Sandton Centre, one of Liberty's most important property investments, and Lakeside is looking more and more like a British Sandton.

Exchange plans a £2.5m mart for unit trusts

A company named the Unit Trust Exchange takes to the road this week with the aim of raising £2.5 million for a screen-dealing service linking unit trust managers with sales outlets such as brokers, writes Barbara Ellis.

The Unit Trust Exchange considers that it will be able to halve current dealing costs for users of the system and make a profit for itself within two years.

Benefits for investors are less clearly defined, but should include better access to information and faster settlement if the banks agree to co-

operate. Despite its name, though, the Unit Trust Exchange will not have market-makers in unit trusts dealing in funds from a variety of groups.

Units will still have to be bought from or sold to the group which originates them.

"The Securities and Investments Board tried to push us in that (market-making) direction," said Mr Andrew Wrobel, a director of Financial Marketing Consulting Group, one of the Unit Trust Exchange's founding shareholders, "but frankly at the moment that would have been mi-

serable." He explained that such a move would have alienated the management groups which already thought they were making fair prices.

However, Mr Wrobel felt that the Unit Trust Exchange would be edging towards market-making with its acceptance of "limit" orders, which allow investors to make a deal conditional on a specified price.

"Obviously it would affect the price if someone knew they could deal in £100,000 worth of units at a certain level," he said.

Mr Mark St Giles, the Unit Trust

Exchange chairman, who is currently also chairman of the Framlington group, says the Exchange could launch in the autumn if it signs up as few as three significant management groups and perhaps 30 brokers of the 50 or so who do the most business in unit trusts.

Estimates by the Unit Trust Association show that independent brokers account for between 30 per cent and 40 per cent of unit trust business, with 50 per cent coming from life companies and the rest from their direct sales forces.

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CITYSCAPE

Liverpool turns back from the brink

Derelict and unwanted buildings in Liverpool are to be offered as backdrops to film-makers with an awkward scene to shoot. Any director whose script requires a tower block, warehouse or block of flats to explode is invited to approach the Liverpool's film liaison officer and the city council will do its best to provide a suitable subject for spectacular demolition.

That way it kills two birds with a single stone. One more slab of the dereliction is removed at no cost to the council and the city makes a profit from the deal.

Liverpool, under renewed financial pressure as government rules further restrict the scope of local authorities to raise money, has found other ingenious ways of making money and cutting spending.

The budget-monitoring sub-committee is one, an innovation not best loved by Liverpool's chief officers. They appear regularly before it bearing their budgets. Every penny of outgoings is examined by the finance committee chairman, Mr Keith Hackett, and his deputies; the eyes and ears of the city's ratepayers.

"It gives us minute, day-to-day control over spending. With a need to save £2.5 million between November and March a close watch is essential," Mr Hackett says.

Today, the purge seems to be on paper clips and correcting fluid, which appear in volume in a number of budgets. His pen slices through the offending items; typists will have to make fewer mistakes and documents their own arrangements for staying together.

Other non-essential expenditure is deferred or deleted. A monitoring rocket heads off to the housing department — why is the council losing £300,000 a year from meters that have not been officially emptied in unoccupied council houses?

The meeting lasts two hours and by the end £152,000 has been "saved" or erased from the budget. A successful morning, Mr Hackett declares. It brought the amount saved in three weeks to over £1 million. "This sort of inquisition

Ronald Faux reports on Liverpool's financial renaissance



Mr Hackett: Tight control means that departments put forward only essential spending and it gives the councillors the chance to knock back individual items. It makes them think at least twice. It works," he says.

A distinction between this Labour administration and the last, which was Militant dominated, centres on a liberal attitude towards disposing of even the shabbiest of city assets. The hard left of the Hutton-Byrne years had a "private and public" initiative that yielded little, even though half of Liverpool is owned by the council and the city was crying out for capital.

The present council, faced with a £20 million hole in the budget, is prepared within reason to sell anything to anyone.

Both shades of Labour share an abhorrence of laying off council workers. Liverpool City Council is by far the city's biggest employer with 30,000 on the payroll; far ahead of Ford, Cammell-Laird or the streamlined Mersey docks.

With 15 per cent of Liverpool workers unemployed the council fears it would be politically disastrous to force redundancies. Mr Hackett insists that the present difficulties are not a legacy of extreme-left policies of the last administration. They came

from the years Liverpool lay stranded on a political reef with a hung council.

The Government is now introducing measures that will further clip the council's financial wings. Half of all capital receipts must in future go towards paying off debts and a range of other statutes have redefined and tightened capitalization measures and lease premiums. The net result this year would be a cut in potential spending of £36 million.

This week the city treasurer disclosed a £13 million hole in the city's housing revenue account which cannot, by government decree, be plugged from the rates or poll tax. The council will be looking at ways to avoid a rent rise of nearly £5 a week, possibly by selling, occupying or demolishing the 6,500 empty properties the council owns.

Mr Hackett says he takes a "dented shield" approach to the city's financial battles but he insists that things are changing for the better. Charterhouse has taken a lease on a large slab of blighted city centre with the promise of restored Georgian blocks and new development.

The maligned Militants actually knocked down ten tower blocks, disposed of 1,691 squalid flats and poured £260 million into new housing which can now be regarded as a flattering monument to them. Liverpool claims the national record for council house building over the past six years.

Mr Hackett insists the legacy was not entirely one of confrontation and debt. "There were many good things but too many services were neglected or abandoned. Instead of our budget monitoring committee there was a black hole into which budgets just disappeared. Something had to give, especially when Labour failed in the last general election.

"For me it came to a head when I saw a huge pile of uncollected refuse in the gutter. Near it was the body of a rat to which someone had gummed one of our 'Vote Labour' stickers. I knew then the party was in deep trouble."



The two faces of Liverpool: The grandeur of the waterfront, top, and the derelict estate, above, earmarked as a suitable subject for spectacular demolition.

Investment has brought about £200 million into Merseyside industry since the grim days of the mid-eighties, reflecting more positively than political speeches Liverpool's changing image.

Business leaders are able to rattle off impressive lists of new companies arriving and major spending by existing firms, which all reflect the new confidence.

Business Opportunities on Merseyside, better known by its up-beat acronym of BOOM, has been encouraged by the successful trends. Mr Geoffrey Piper, chairman,

said £200 billion was probably a modest estimate of what had come to Merseyside in the last years of the eighties.

General Motors had put £200 million into its plant. Unilever had moved a subsidiary from the South-east to Merseyside. Pilkington had decided to build a new float glass operation at St Helens, contrary to expectations.

The Wavertree Technology Park had opened to a multitude of shaking heads on a derelict railway site in Edge Lane after Michael Heseltine's historic visit to the city after the Toxteth riots. The

COMMERCE

target had been to fill the park and create 2,000 jobs by 1994. The park was already full and the jobs created.

Mr Keith Robinson, chief executive of the Merseyside Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the new interest was reflected in the workforce, although the Ford strike might be causing one or two investors to pause their lips.

"The Mersey Docks and Harbour Company has slumped down its workforce and established new working

agreements that have helped win back two Russian lines and a Scandinavian line.

"When the world's largest roll-on roll-off vessel came in to Liverpool last year the docks loaded 1,200 Jaguar cars for the North American market and completed the operation between tides, a tremendous performance," he said.

Ford had put £500 million into the Halewood plant, Shell £400 million into its Merseyside operation and although the region was said to lose one Unilever factory at Kirby in recent months, the

company had 10 other factories on Merseyside.

The Royal Insurance group opened headquarters in Liverpool two years ago and was prospering well enough to expand out of them and sponsor the Royal Shakespeare Company for £1 million a year.

Mr Robinson said that it was not only the industrial face of Merseyside that was more attractive. The cultural and leisure facilities were bringing millions to Liverpool with its national museums, refurbished docks and refurbishing sense of a great city.

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THE TIMES

REVIEW

سكنا من الأصل

SECTION 3

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24 1990

Colossus that spans a century

GRAHAM WOOD



William Morris, champion of the arty-crafty, loathed the Forth Bridge. "It is the supremest specimen of all ugliness," he declared. Many decades later, Kenneth Clark thought it "an anachronism, a sort of prehistoric monster, a brontosaurus of technology". But the burning concern of the men who built one of the wonders of the railway age was to make pretty damned sure that it didn't fall down.

A century after a previous Prince of Wales opened it in a howling Scots gale on March 4, 1890, the Forth Bridge stands as the greatest visible testament to Britain's era of steam, steel and granite confidence. So far from falling down, it daily bears 1,500-ton coal trains like Atlas shouldering a tennis ball, and has breasted this winter's hurricanes without so much as a shudder. It gazes in disdain as its slender road-bridge neighbour suffers the indignity of having the menders in after only 26 years of pounding by more and bigger lorries than its designers ever expected.

Its potent image of strength, employed over the years to advertise the reliability of everything from shortbread to women's tights, the Forth Bridge is the ultimate belt-and-braces design against the fierce elements of eastern Scotland. It had to be, for when the contract to build it was awarded, the normally indomitable Victorian engineering pro-

For 100 years the mighty Forth Bridge has stood as a symbol of strength and durability. Alan Hamilton pays a birthday tribute to the engineering wonder of the Victorian age that has weathered the Scottish storms

fession was suffering a temporary loss of public faith, much as the builders of high-rise flats did after the collapse of Ronan Point.

In the summer of 1879, Sir Thomas Bouch had been the hero of the hour, newly knighted by Queen Victoria. Commissioned by the east coast railway companies to steal a march on their inland rivals by providing a shorter, direct route to the northern cities of Dundee and Aberdeen, and thereby do away with ferries which were distinctly unhelpful, particularly on wild winter nights, Bouch had spanned the Tay with the world's longest rail bridge, and was already at work conquering the other great gash on the eastern seaboard, the Forth.

But on the night of December 28 the same year, the wind came howling down from Perthshire at hurricane force 11 and gusting, to carry away the Tay Bridge, the evening train from Edinburgh, and 75 lives. It had been the victim of inadequate design, faulty

materials and atrocious workmanship, all of which added up to a cavalier disregard for the power of the elements. With only one pier built, Bouch's contract to bridge the Forth was summarily cancelled; he died soon afterwards, broken in heart and mind.

There could be no second tragedy. The railway companies commissioned two of the most eminent and respectable engineers of the day, Sir John Fowler and Benjamin Baker, both of whom had acquired solid reputations constructing the Metropolitan Railway in London, to build a bridge to withstand the fiercest act that God might throw at it.

The 1.5-mile gap of the Queensferry narrows had presented a hazard on the northward journey ever since the saintly 11th-century Queen Margaret of Scotland, who gave the crossing its name, shuttled between the fortress of Edinburgh Castle and her ancient capital of Dunfermline, safely across the Forth from the

marauding English. A tunnel had been proposed, and abandoned, in 1806. Twelve years later a slender chain bridge was mooted, drawing the observation from a later engineer that it was "so light a structure that it would hardly have been visible on a dull day, and after a heavy gale it would no longer be seen on a clear day".

What was eventually built is one of the most profoundly visible man-made objects anywhere. Although advancing techniques were making possible the construction of ever-longer and bigger suspension bridges, as demonstrated by the opening of the Brooklyn Bridge in 1873, Baker opted instead for the cantilever principle, discovered and employed in the Far East centuries before.

The true ancestor of the Forth Bridge is a little wooden structure built in 1670 across a Himalayan gorge in northern India. When he arranged the photograph on this page to demonstrate the principle, Baker ensured that the man in the middle was a Japanese, in recognition of his debt to the East.

The bridge was the first major structure in the world to be built of steel. Baker and Fowler rejected iron as inconsistent and unreliable, and chose the new material, recent perfection of the Siemens open-hearth smelting process meant that steel had suddenly become plentiful, and its quality consistent. None the less, at the same time across the Channel, Monsieur Eiffel was erecting his massive folly in wrought iron.

Baker was unimpressed. "The Eiffel Tower is a foolish piece of work, ugly, ill-proportioned and of no real use to anyone," he said. "The Forth Bridge is a work of usefulness which has been stigmatised as very ugly, but it has the beauty and expressiveness of a well-constructed scientific stamp." The bridge was also far

larger, equal to six of M Eiffel's towers laid end to end. Into the Forth Bridge went 54,000 tons of steel, held together by 6.5 million rivets. Not one ounce of the metal was employed in ornament; every last tube and girder was functional, and in that very fact lies its visual appeal. Baker also employed another innovation. All the

component parts held in tension he made conventional lattice girders, but all those in compression he made, for the first time on any major structure, tubular — the biggest of them 12ft in diameter riveted up from thick curved steel plates. The additional strength was obvious to him after trying to

Continued overleaf



THE SPORT OF KINGS ON THE KING OF TRAINS.

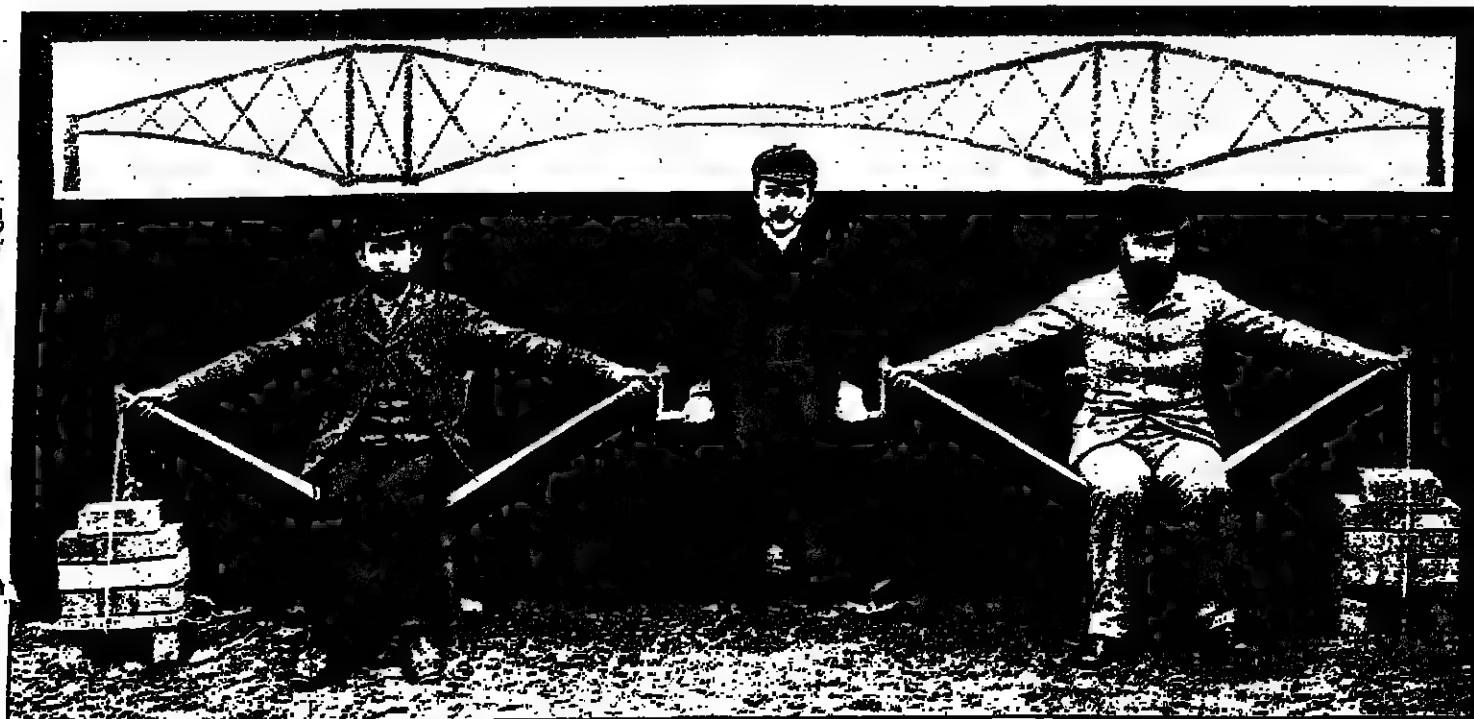
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A Day Out of the Ordinary.



Benjamin Baker's demonstration of the cantilever principle. The Japanese man (centre) represents the engineer's debt to the East for the idea



THE NED SHERRIN COLUMN

Mercurial astrology

I think I celebrated my 59th birthday last Sunday. I hope it was the right day. My birth certificate says February 18 but a family Bible has the 19th. As I was the second son, no one can remember at precisely what time of which day or night I happened along. It makes it tough for astrologers.

However, the cast and crew of *Loose Ends* gave me a birthday card for the 18th and stuck on two horoscopes. Both are high on Mercury. One says he will "inject (me) with brilliant brainwaves, inspiring instant insights, imaginings and ideas". According to the other, Mercury gives me "the gift of the gab as well as imparting verbal expression to (my) ingenious mind and incredible notions ... cerebrally (I'm) in a class of (my) own and way ahead of (my) time."

Let's stay with the birthday. I was lucky to celebrate it by launching a charity. The British Sports Trust has allied with Scotts of Mount Street and the champagne house of Krug in arranging three monthly banquets celebrating the best seasonal fish washed down with three sorts of bubbly. A £100-ticket gives you a chance of three draws. Winners get a dinner for seven guests; losers' money goes to the Sports Trust.

My onerous task was to summon some guinea-pigs for a test run. I chose my cast carefully. Elisabeth Welch is a champagne connoisseur and had a vintage named after her in the Fifties. Keith Waterhouse qualifies, if not as an expert, certainly as a conspicuous consumer — along with Jean Leyland, his flame-haired factotum, Victoria Mather and Reggie Tsiobos got in on looks and conversation. I had a slight problem with the Tom Contis, as Mr Contis has a seafood allergy and Mrs Contis doesn't drink alcohol.

Another high point for me was collecting £5 across the table from Waterhouse in settlement of a bet. We had lunched at *The Spectator* with Peter O'Toole, Michael Reddington and Jeffrey Bernard. Waterhouse, in a moment of uncharacteristic madness, bet me that the old *Brains Trust* had a studio audience. Have you heard of taking sweets from a baby? His principal evidence was a Richmal Crompton



him that "his favourite pastime was travelling on railway trains without a ticket".

We had a better train story at the same lunch in Doughty Street. Alfred, Lord Tennyson, on his first railway journey, was bowled over by the talent of the driver.

"Such a good steerer, we had. We approached a tunnel and I was terrified; but so great was his skill that he drove the engine straight at the centre of the aperture. He touched neither one side of it nor the other before we emerged."

I HAVE been saving this item until my prize-winners in the Christmas quiz. Joanne Aitken and her son, had enjoyed the play at the Apollo. They went on Saturday. Several correspondents advised me that, contrary to O'Toole's assertion, Richard Burton did not get a wartime Oxford rugby Blue. Colin Freese of Bury St Edmunds was up with him from April till September 1944 and, as he points out, it was "an excellent cricket season".

Tom Baxter-Wright checked the *Playfair Rugby Annual* for wartime Blues. No Burton, no Jenkins. However, later in 1947 Burton did deliberate: "Should he get back into

gramme was called *Any Questions?*

The revelation is that Campbell was not a Commander and Joad was not a Professor. Campbell ("When I was in Patagonia ...") was a ship's purser. The BBC granted him the title of Commander, much to the annoyance of the Admiralty. Joad ("It depends what you mean by ...") was merely head of the department of philosophy at Birkbeck College, with no professorial chair.

On April 2, 1942, Captain Evelyn Waugh, Royal Marines, a guest on the *Brains Trust*, found Campbell "vulgar, insouciant, conceited", and Joad "goat-like, libidinous, garrulous". Bob Boothby, in *Recollections of a Rebel*, records that Joad, who was later to be arrested and fined for dodging train fares, told

(William) story. Imagine my surprise when Dominic Lawson, the next editor of the mag, joined in the bet for another £5. He can't have been born when the *Brains Trust* ceased upon the midnight. A quick call to my man in Deal produced chapter and verse.

According to Julian Huxley's memoirs, the *Brains Trust* started "in 1939 at the BBC's old place in Savoy Hill, with Professor Joad and Commander Campbell as guinea-pigs". For the first year the pro-

Oxford and try for a First and a rugby Blue?"

Baxter-Wright also queries my reference to a Steele-Bodger team in 1944. Before the Varsity match, Oxford usually played Major Stanley's XV. Mickey Steele-Bodger did not go to Cambridge until 1945. When he came down he decided that Cambridge needed a game like Stanley's — hence the Steele-Bodger XV. How illustrious was Burton's rugby-playing career?

THE DEATH last week of the redoubtable, charming Dame Peggy Shepherd struck a nostalgic note for me. When we piloted *7W3* in 1962 she was chairman of the Conservative Women's National Advisory Committee. She led a group of Tory ladies who Bernard Levin confronted on the programme. Five times one of them thundered at him: "Mr Macmillan has always satisfied me!" Another woman was strident on law and order: "Mr Levin, how would you like it if your daughter was up a dark lane late at night and nothing done about it?" Neither was Dame Peggy.

After the recording, Grace Wyndham Goldie gave the show her thumbs down. However, the Tory ladies made such a fuss at Central Office about the depth of depravity to which the pilot had sunk that a protest was lodged at the highest level of the BBC. More senior viewers monitored the experiment. Fortunately they found it vastly amusing and, thanks to Tory Central Office, we were booked for an initial 26 weeks.

WONDERFUL NEWS from Fleet Street. Whenever Robert Maxwell arrives at the *Mirror* building in his helicopter, the word goes round, "The ego has landed."

SHERIDAN MORLEY

If I were...

If I were Detta O'Cathain, administrator of the Barbican, I would be irritated that with all the furore over the Royal Shakespeare Company's cash crisis, precious little attention seems to have been paid to my problems. I will soon have two empty theatres.

We could, of course, form ourselves into London's fourth airport: we have more carpeted acres than Gatwick, are conveniently if impenetrably located for the City, and could probably land at least helicopters on the main stage if not Boeings, given that Drury Lane manages to land a helicopter six nights a week and twice on matinee days for *Miss Saigon*.

Alternatively, the Barbican could revert to its original architectural concept and become London's first cultural nuclear shelter: bookshops are already in place, as well as the longest bar in terms of footage and customer-delay in the whole of the City. In the event of a holocaust, kiosks on different levels selling CDs of Wagner's *Ring* and highlights from *A Clockwork Orange* would resolve the problem of what to do with personalized headsets while awaiting the inevitable. Catering has always presented something of a



... Detta O'Cathain

problem, although travellers assure me our ham baps are every bit as good as those at Gatwick on an August Sunday afternoon, and the difference between those queuing for a cheap night-flight to Marbella and those queuing for *Nigel Kennedy Plays All Your Favourite Classics in 30 Seconds with Larry Adler* is precisely what has made us an arts centre unrivalled anywhere this side of Stansted.

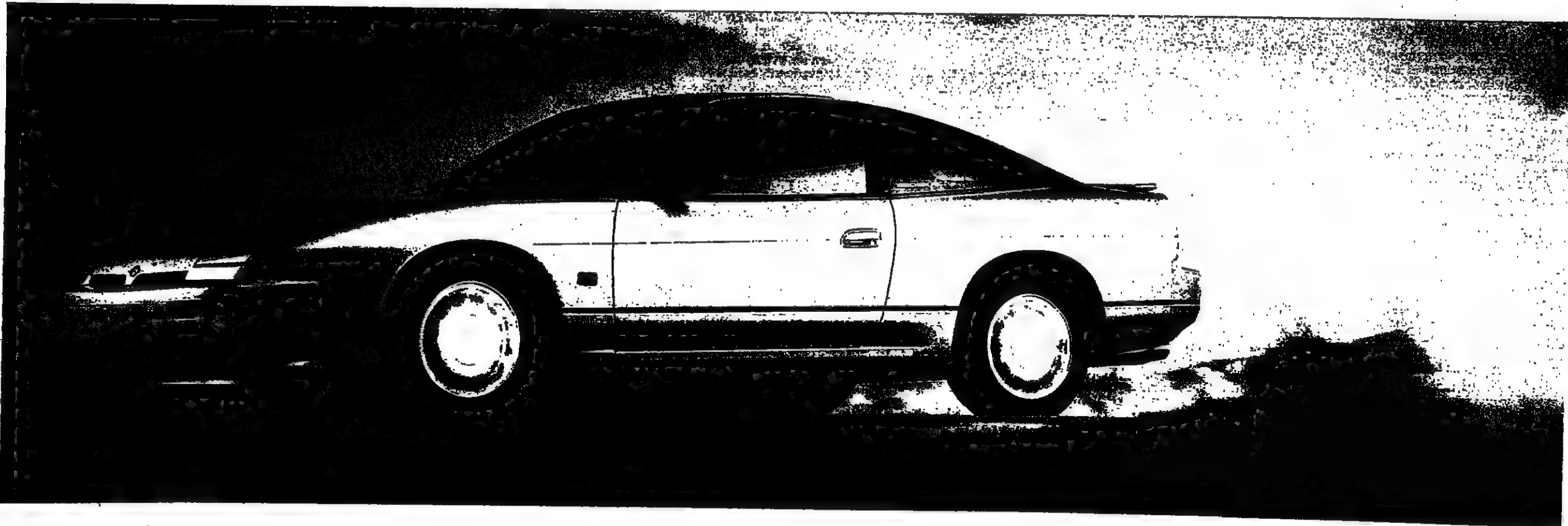
We are also a housing estate, and any of the residents could use the main stage for community-association meetings about the poll tax, unavailability of cabs and closure of all local Tube stations at weekends when wet. Such issues could be debated under decent lighting, with an RSC director in charge.

WE are not a cultural Mecca: the acoustics and seating facilities, not to mention the staircase and lifts going in no required direction, have long indicated that the building's true purpose is as a combined intellectual ghetto and long-term security centre for artistic directors who have offended the State by demanding increased subsidies. Prolonged incarceration in Kafka's Barbican without visiting rights would cause them to think twice before yet again attacking the present administration on late-night BBC2 arts shows.

If all else fails, there is no reason why the main stage should not be flooded and frozen for the first City Olympics: having survived on perilously thin ice for several decades, the RSC might win through, and a *Torville and Dean Macbeth* could see us into 1991.

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A CHILDHOOD: MICHAEL PALIN

'I got to shout at people in the Corps. It was useful material later'

Not many years before she died Michael Palin's mother confided in him. He had been her idea, she said. She had engineered the whole thing. His father, not very well off and trying to keep up appearances, couldn't decide whether or not they should have a second child.

So his mother, already in her late thirties and quite certain of what she wanted, made the decision for him. "Whatever method of birth control my mother was using she didn't use on that particularly balmy night in 1942," he says. "And I was the result: the ultimate mother's story."

There were good reasons for his father's uncertainty. After a glittering start to his career, a doctor's son from Norfolk, Shrewsbury School, Cambridge, India, and a society wedding to the daughter of the High Sheriff of Oxfordshire, life had not gone right. The promised glittering career had never materialized.

By 1943 he was a middle-aged man living in a rented house (solid, stone-built, three storeys and detached but still rented) in a Sheffield suburb and working for a lavatory paper manufacturer. Later he moved to be export manager for a steel works, but in all the years he was growing up Palin doesn't believe his father ever had a promotion.

Life was a struggle of slightly faded gentility and penny pinching. His father also suffered from a bad stutter. In the United States, where they have associations to demonstrate on behalf of these things, Palin was strongly criticized for mocking those with such an impediment when he played a stuttering croak in the film *A Fish Called Wanda*.

The protesters were wrong, of course. It was a performance of affection and extreme accuracy. Perhaps if his father had been able to laugh at himself a little bit more life would not have been such a frustration.

"I'm sure his speech must have had an effect on his career, because it could be quite serious. I always felt he never came anywhere near reaching his true potential. But then I think he should have been a church organist."

"He was a musical man, who loved classical music and singing in the choir. He was a bell-ringer, too, second in command of a peal of 10 bells and once was on the radio on Christmas morning. I was very proud when I watched him. I always felt he was most at ease in church."

Gradually the picture emerges of a man doing his best for his family in the austere post-war Britain, respectable, middle-class,



educated and nervous of the uncertainties of the change.

Like most people who had come through the Depression and the war, what mattered most to Palin's father were security and education. He wanted his son to have what he had had, and it wasn't until after he had died and Palin was clearing up his papers that he realized the sacrifice his father had made: something like

it covered up most of the time with a sort of knitted antimacassar. He'd go through the *Radio Times* and circle the things he wanted to watch.

Watching television was a big production. "We'd turn the armchair around, then there would be the warm-up time, about a minute and a half, and he'd wait. And then, finally, the programme wouldn't be on. That always used to throw him. The previous programme had obviously over-run. 'What's this? This isn't the *Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols*, is it?' he'd say, when it palpably wasn't, probably someone showing their bottom on a nature programme. 'Mother, get the *Radio Times*.'"

Radio was much more of a happy, shared family activity, particularly *Take It From Here*, when all the family would sit down together. Happy memories. But radio was changing, too.

The *Goon Show* drew a line directly between parents and their children. Radio comedy in those days was much more inventive than anything appearing on television.

"Graham and I were very keen on scriptwriters for comedy series, like Galton and Simpson and Barry Took. We thought we would be very funny scriptwriters but that seemed to be a world from which we would always be excluded."

A boyhood in the Fifties was to grow up in a time of change, and the old order which his parents' generation respected, not least his own father, was under attack.

"It was very exciting. I saw the Goons as companions of Elvis Presley. I'll never forget the first time I heard Elvis singing 'Heartbreak Hotel' on *Family Favourites*. My father got up and began fiddling with the radio. He thought it had gone out of tune. Then I heard 'Heartbreak Hotel' again and realized that there was something wrong. It was supposed to sound like that."

In books he loved Richard Crompton's *William*, particularly the length of time William could spend just staring at something. He enjoyed reading (and writing), but there were few books in the house. His father would go to the library and only buy him a book at Christmas — *Tales of the Arabian Nights*. Keith Miller's autobiography and the *Eagle* annuals. Now he buys books all the time.

He saw the film *Around the World in Eighty Days*, but did not read the book. (His own book of that title, based on his recent television series, has been a best-seller.)

At 13 he followed his father to Shrewsbury. "What they did to you there was to make you feel



Michael Palin now and, left, as a boy: "I thought I would be a very funny scriptwriter but it seemed to be a world that would always exclude me"

rather special because you were at Shrewsbury, pumping it into you that you were among the country's elite. It stays with you for life. Grammar school boys — the term 'grammar school' was so derogatory — were so absolutely beneath you. That was the way they wanted you to think."

For a while he accepted this kind of propaganda, even to the point of becoming a colour sergeant in the Corps. "You get to about at people. It was very useful material for later. It was very reassuring to be part of such tradition. And, I suppose, sometimes I felt 'this is it, I'm here, I've read all the right books, I'm all set'. But then something totally absurd would happen and I could never take it too seriously."

All the same, he remembers "moments which no child should have to go through. For instance, I was embarrassed that my parents had such a small car when they came to speech days. And it seems

Photograph by Graham Wood

to me terrible that any place should foster that kind of feeling. My parents just didn't have that sense of innate superiority that the successful parents had."

From Shrewsbury he intended to follow his father's footsteps to Cambridge, but on failing to get in turned instead to Brasenose College, Oxford, where he quickly fell in with another student, Terry Jones. Oxford was a completely new experience, where he met "a whole new kind of people — women, for a start."

Having been uprooted from Sheffield at the age of 13 he hardly knew any girls. "You'd perhaps meet them at parties, but never get to know them. You just wanted to have a few drinks and get your hand down their jumper. At Oxford there were these very intelligent girls whom you could talk to and ..."

Then get your hand down their jumper? "Well, yes. Or perhaps find that you didn't want to after all."

He was, of course, already committed romantically. As he faithfully recorded in his BBC film *East of Ipswich*, his family had always gone to East Anglia for their summer holidays. One year, on the beach at Southwold, he saw a girl, Helen, who was staying in the bungalow next to his boarding house. Some nonsense with a beach ball led to chatting up letters to and from school.

Then, on his first day at Oxford, a friend happened to mention that he had a girlfriend at the Froebel Institute in Roehampton. Since this was where Helen was also now studying, the two girls came up together. "We saw each other most weekends after that." He was reading history. His

father, knowing he liked writing, had imagined he might have a career in advertising, but going with the Oxford Revue to the Edinburgh Festival at the end of his second year (alongside Terry Jones and Annabel Leventon) changed all that. They were good. The BBC made a short film of them and David Frost went up from London to see them.

For the first time he realized that he might have a career as an actor or writer. Failing to get on to the BBC's general traineeship ("they should have a special tie for those who failed to get on"), he turned instead to writing scripts for BBC radio comedy programmes.

A year later, at 22, he married Helen and bought his first home. (They have three children.) It was, he thinks, the end of childhood. Three years later *Monty Python* went on the air; a career which had seemed impossible began to take shape.

Continued from page 33

squash a cardboard postal tube by its ends. But it was the sheer daring scale of the undertaking that took the contemporary breath away. The main towers, at 361ft, are higher than the dome of St Peter's and only a whisker short of the Great Pyramid at Giza, while the two main spans of 1,710ft were more than three times longer than any unsupported span built before.

To erect this behemoth took innovation, ingenuity and an army of labour, which, at the height of activity, numbered nearly 5,000 men drawn from all over the British Isles. They worked round the clock — but not, of course, on the Sabbath — on the first construction site anywhere illuminated by electric light. It is a tribute to them that the superstructure was completed in only three years — but at the cost of 57 lives and more than 500 injuries, some from falls, some from tools dropped from high above.

It cost, in the end, the tidy sum of £3.5 million, every penny of it private capital subscribed by the railway companies. But for that they built it well. Except, that is, for the fact that the whole thing is two inches off plumb centre; as the towers rose the combination of prevailing westerly wind and the expansion powers of warm afternoon sun conspired to tilt them fractionally to the east.

And however rock-solid it may look, it isn't. On a hot June afternoon the Forth Bridge is 3ft longer than on a January night; fortunately its ends rest on rollers and everywhere there are expansion joints. When a heavy freight train crosses the centre spans, the bridge bends downwards by seven inches. But when it is battered by the very worst of winter gales, the movement is so small it cannot be measured. Baker did a great deal of homework with wind gauges before he started.

Bridge to the future

Joe McCabe, a Glasgow University engineering graduate, is the present bridge manager for British Rail. It will, so far as he can see, last for ever. He says: "We have replaced a few of the lighter steel members — they wouldn't be called lighter anywhere else — near the water level. But on the whole, it's as good as the day it was built."

He has a staff of seven riggers, five trackmen, two supervisors, and two men in a rescue boat on constant alert at North Queensferry pier, and in radio contact with the maintenance crews above. Until last year, a watchman guarded the bridge at night, once to spot any fires from steam engines catching the wooden sleepers, but later to spot any residents from the Fife shore taking a short cut to the Hawes Inn.

"We've given up the watch," McCabe says. "No steam trains, and people come over the road bridge if they want a drink now."

The bridge, he says, has never been much favoured for suicides; if you jump out of a train you will just land on the walkway by the track, still 150ft above the water. Another abandoned bridge custom is the throwing of pennies out of the train for luck; train windows don't open so easily any more, to the dismay of the trackmen, who were never short of beer money.

But the one activity that never stops is the painting. It is disappointing to have the myth exploded by McCabe that his crew of 28 painters start at one end, paint to the other, and start all over again. They do it at random, wherever it happens to be needed, roughly on a six-year cycle.

Health inspectors were

aghast at the dangers of the lead oxide paint, named Forth Bridge Red and mixed in the same Edinburgh factory since the first 250 tons were applied in 1890. Painters cleaning off the old stuff have to wear masks, and take a shower as thorough as a pithead bath at the end of each working day.

"We're using that new vinyl stuff now, and I hope to get at least 20 years out of a coat," McCabe says, ever mindful that the bridge costs £750,000 a year to maintain. He has to be; each year his bridge consumes 17 tons of paint in protecting the 145 acres of steel surface.

Two hundred trains a day still rumble across the bridge, from little diesel Sprinters to monsters bearing coal for Longannet power station on the northern shore of the Forth. McCabe cannot comprehend the fuss and shenanigans being dreamed up by the public relations men to mark the centenary of this magnificent memorial to an age of assurance.

"It's only a bridge; it's no bloody circus," observes this paragon of Scottish practicality. Benjamin Baker would wholeheartedly agree. That his mighty creation would not be standing after a century would never have entered his head.

Same name dropper

If two people have the same Christian names and surnames, one can become very muddled. There is a Michael Caine who is the chairman of Booker McConnell and a Michael Caine who is an actor. John Weir who is an Oxford Professor of Poetry and John Wayne the cowboy. Robert Reid, the former chairman of British Rail, and Robert Reid his successor. I am even told there used to be a Cecil Beaton who owned a garage in East Sussex. The idea that John Donne should have abandoned the church and poetry to become a Radio 2 disc jockey has long been a cause for worry, but conversely I was saddened that the rebellious rock star Pete Townshend should have thrown in his lot with the establishment by becoming special editor of *The Tatler*. When I see posters advertising concerts by Paul Johnson, the rock singer, a small part of me fears he will interrupt a searing guitar solo in order to rap about this proud nation of ours and the infiltration of the BBC by the hard left.

Such Doppelgänger names can cause much trouble, particularly for agencies which specialize in sending celebrities all the press cuttings they have accrued. I remember Peter Cook, the comedian, telling me how excited he had once been when an envelope of press cuttings far larger than he had ever been sent before arrived on his doorstep. Believing himself to be undergoing a tremendous resurgence of popularity among a satire-hungry nation, he kept on the envelope only to discover that all the cuttings referred to Peter Cook, the man who was found guilty of being the Cambridge rapist.

Perhaps because they want to appeal to the broadest spectrum of the general public, politicians have a knack of

being christened with the names of other people. There are still many who find it hard to distinguish between Brian Wilson, mainstay of the Beach Boys, and Brian Wilson, Labour MP for Cunningham North; between Kenneth Clarke, the beer-drinking MP, and Kenneth Clarke, the art historian; between Gordon Brown, the Scottish rugby international, and Gordon Brown, the Labour front-



CRAIG BROWN

bench spokesman; between Robyn Cook, the Australian feminist singer, and Robin Cook, the Labour spokesman on health; between Peter Brooke, the leading experimental Cabinet minister of our age, and Peter Brooke, the bluff former caretaker/chairman of the International avant-garde theatre, between Willie Whitelaw, the former Home Secretary who was once buried on stage up to his neck in sand, and Billie Whitelaw, the fine Beckettian actress who pioneered the short, sharp shock.

This problem of identity came to the fore this week while I was reading Michael Sheldon's excellent book *Friends of Promise*, about Cyril Connolly and the world of *Horizon*. All was going smoothly for me until page 209 when Peter Watson, the elegant, homosexual proprietor of *Horizon* magazine,

falls in love with an American sailor from Virginia. The sailor, we are told, "had a strange seductive charm" but "there was a dark, irrational side to his character". The name of this sailor was also, Norman Fowler.

Peter Brooke and Willie Whitelaw and Robin Cook are sufficiently average, commonplace sort of names for the mind to adapt to the possibility of confusion, but I had always imagined that there could be only one person in the world called Norman Fowler. Faced with a second, I found my mind could not adapt and I would see the one and only Norman Fowler lurking behind every sentence.

Turning the page, I read a former boyfriend's description of Norman Fowler: "Norman was a very strange person. He would have moments — in fact, occasionally it happened right in front of my eyes — when he would have something, not exactly like a catatonic seizure, but he would space out in rather peculiar ways. In fact, once I had to slap him to bring him to."

On the last page of the book, a letter from Norman Fowler is quoted wherein he reveals a particularly gruesome nightmare: "The figure stood on a sheer precipice ... It landed with an ungodly agonizing groan. Badly hurt, with bits of flesh torn from his body ... By this time it was unrecognizable, a formless bloody pulp ..."

I still find it hard to equate this figure with the man who masterminded an end to the dock labour scheme, the man who gave up a promising Cabinet post to allow himself more time with his young family, the man who was first appointed to office by Ted Heath, the noted dance band leader and former Prime Minister.

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A circular black and white stamp. The word "KABUL" is at the top, "24 FEB 1990" is in the center, and "AFGHANISTAN" is at the bottom, all within a circular border.

TOMORROW IN THE SUNDAY TIMES



هكذا من الأصل

Re

Nigel Andrew
continues his tour
of Britain's top
tourist attractions
with a stroll up
Edinburgh's
Royal Mile

The first of the new series of books, "The History of the United States," is now being published by the American Historical Association. The first volume, "The Discovery and Settlement of the United States," is now being published by the American Historical Association. The first volume, "The Discovery and Settlement of the United States," is now being published by the American Historical Association.

What was I to do, but

Polishing the veneer

[illegible]

Fair

The value of
program...
to not know
radiant...
is half...
there's...
rightly...
camp for...
additionally

OUT AND ABOUT

Rock with a royal view

Nigel Andrew
continues his tour
of Britain's top
tourist attractions
with a stroll up
Edinburgh's
Royal Mile

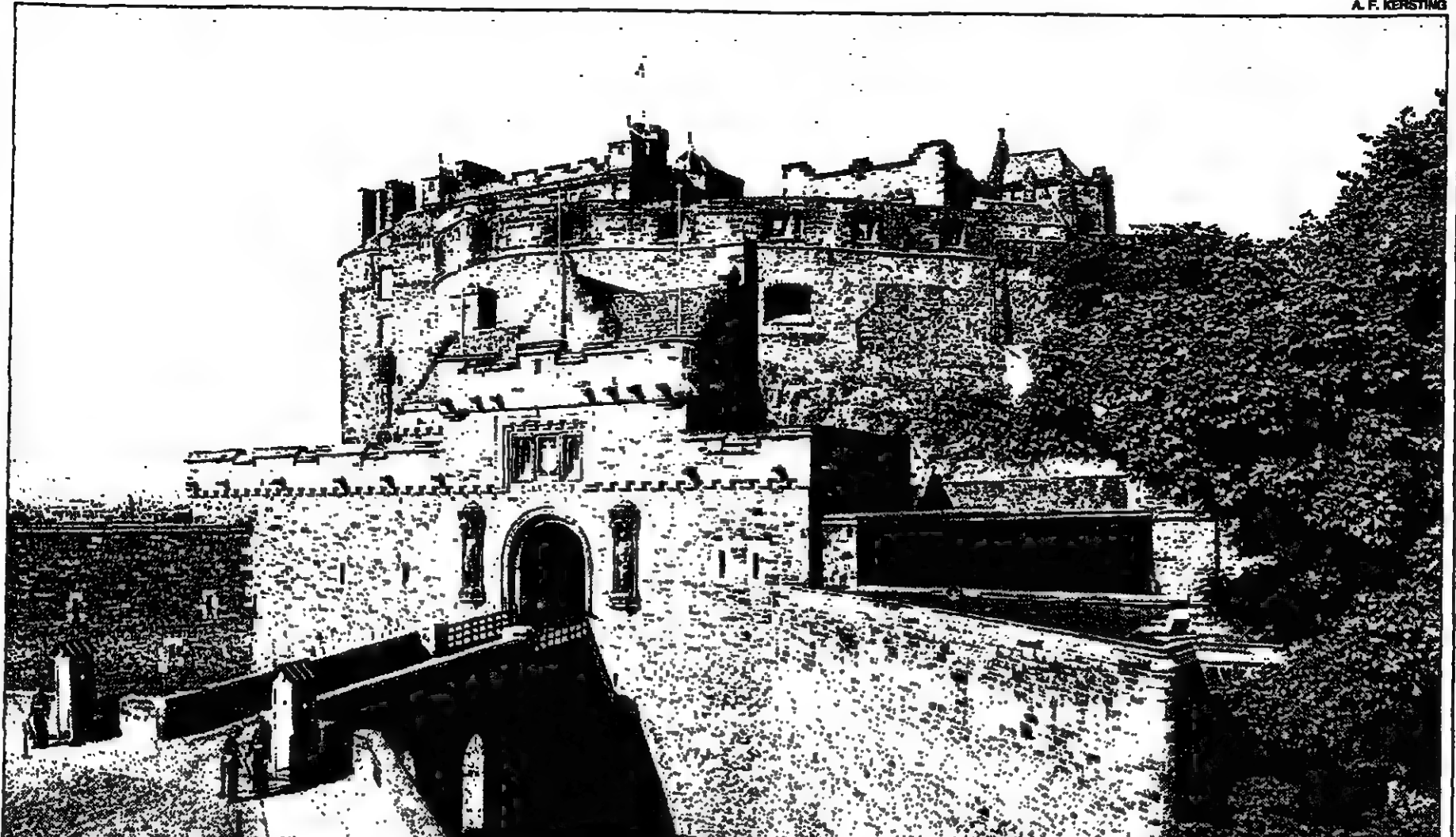
There is a certain type of craggy Scottish face that seems to consist entirely of profiles. The city of Edinburgh is rather like that — a city of profiles, stark arrays of towers and spires, gables and turrets and massed chimneys. These dramatic skylines, with the ranges of hills and mountains beyond the city, define Edinburgh more perfectly than anything at ground level.

Surely the greatest of them all is the profile of the Old Town on its brutal eruption of rock, rising suddenly from the midst of the city, and crowned at its highest point by the long, romantic outline of the castle. It is a breathtaking sight, a uniquely beautiful urban skyline, and so instantly recognizable that the District Council incorporates it in its logo.

The castle is the perfect summation of the Old Town, the head of the sleeping beast whose spine is the Royal Mile. From the gates of Holyrood House this ancient thoroughfare, a Scots mile in length (slightly more than an English one), climbs between grey tenements, tall and narrow, with crowstep gables. Mysterious little "wynds" and closes open between the buildings, and when a wider gap appears, startling vistas, half urban, half wild, open up above and below, and on either side.

The Royal Mile is scenographic to the nth degree, and despite the closeness of the buildings, the overwhelming feeling is of plain air exhilaration, of huge skies and thin, bracing air.

Scots Royal Standards and St Andrew's flags fly gaily outside the gift shops and tartan 'n' tweed emporia, the bars and cafes. The Royal Mile is rich in museums and other attractions — and St Giles' cathedral is worth a quick tour — but eventually you reach the Castle Esplanade. Here, before getting down to the castle, I took a step backwards to visit the Look-Out Tower with its Camera Obscura exhibition. This Victorian contraption projects a large, clear image of the Edinburgh panorama



High profile: Edinburgh Castle is a gigantic and wonderful outdoor sculpture, which we are fortunately able to climb about on and which lends an awesome beauty to the city it dominates

into a darkened room, building a fascinating 360° profile. The *tour d'horizon* begins and ends at the castle, with people silently walking about, little larger than ants, on the esplanade.

This large forecourt, which keeps the town at an arrow-shot's distance, is where the famous Tattoo takes place. Otherwise it serves as the castle's coach-park and as a splendid viewpoint. A sweet, malty smell wafts up from the city's breweries below. Seen from here the castle presents a grand front, the ramparts dominated by the mighty curve of the Half-Moon Battery, and the palace walls rising sheer from the volcanic rock of the castle crag.

The gatehouse, however, is a poor frontispiece, an unconvincing Victorian creation, embellished with statues of Wallace and Robert the Bruce. This note of romantically reconstructed patriotism sounds loudly throughout the castle, and is largely the

product of wholesale remodelling in the 1890s. Forty years earlier there were plans for a complete rebuild in line with Victorian ideas of what a Scottish castle ought to look like (a very grand railway hotel); but these, happily, were abandoned.

At present Edinburgh Castle is in the midst of radical "improvements", which will involve boring a tunnel through the rock, as well as bringing the place up to date as a tourist attraction. (Even unimproved, it attracts nearly a million visitors a year — many more than Windsor or Warwick.) As a result of all this work going on, parts of the precinct resemble a builder's yard.

But, as you climb the wide, cobbled road up to the ramparts, you soon realize that much of the point of Edinburgh Castle is in looking out — at the stupendous panoramic views — rather than in, at the castle itself.

However, much has already

been done to make the buildings — a rich mix of styles and periods — worth the modern tourist's while. The Military Prison, a remarkable survivor from 1842, is now peopled with life-size models of confined soldiers, and notices give case histories and background information. There is a similarly high standard of signing in the Castle Vaults, where the star attraction is Mons Meg, a gigantic 15th-century siege-gun. Here an audiovisual display tells you all you need to know — in a commentary voiced by Magnus Magnusson — while a neon sign outside counts down the minutes of the next showing.

The Scottish National War Memorial needs no "interpretation". This chapel is the newest of the castle buildings, done in the 1920s in a debased Gothic idiom which I loathed; others, however, find the interior deeply moving. Nearby is the oldest surviving building, St Margaret's Chapel, a plain Nor-

man box, rescued and restored in the last century. The tiny white-washed interior is dominated by a fine chancel arch, beyond which a castle guard, in tarian tress and blue tam-o'-shanter, sits reading — or at least, that is what I found.

Crown Square, at the heart of the castle, is overlooked not only by the War Memorial but by the Palace, a surprisingly plain building with a high stair turret, and the adjoining Great Hall. The hall suffered an over-enthusiastic late Victorian restoration, but the splendid hammerbeam roof is a fine sight.

Inside the Palace the King's Dining-Room and its ante-chamber can be seen, but behind glass. Queen Mary's Room is open, but has been furnished in a bland and approximate late 17th-century style (cream walls, institutional carpet). The little chamber off it is the one to see — if you can squeeze your way in. In this panelled room, barely more than a

closet, Mary, Queen of Scots, gave birth to James VI of Scotland and I of England; and it still carries the wall paintings celebrating James's homecoming. Upstairs, behind steel doors, is the Crown Room, a barrel-vaulted chamber where you can admire the Scottish regalia and crown, sword and sceptre.

Perhaps things will change when the improvements are completed, but at present the best reason for visiting Edinburgh Castle is simply to enjoy being inside the defences, looking out at the incomparable views. More than anything, it is like a gigantic and wonderful outdoor sculpture, which we are fortunately able to climb about on, and which, with its mighty skyline, lends an awesome beauty to the city which it dominates. Some profile.

● Edinburgh Castle is open Mon-Sat 9.30am-4.20pm, Sun 12.30-3.35pm (winter hours). Admission £2.20, child and OAP £1.20.

OUTINGS

WELDER FOREST HUSKY RALLY: Kielder provides the longest course in the country — 13 miles — and spectators can see "mushers" and their teams (100 are expected) compete today and tomorrow. Kielder Castle, Kielder, Northumberland. Today from 10am, tomorrow from 9am.

JORVIK FINALE: Procession of Viking and Anglo-Saxon warriors from the museum gardens to the Eye of York, from 1.30pm, followed by a full-scale re-enactment combat. Torchlight finale from 8.45pm, when the procession leaves the Memorial Gardens and makes its way to King's Staith for the boat burning ceremony on the Ouse. Viking feast of the Jarl in Merchant Venturers' Hall, 7.45pm. York. Today. All events free except feast, tickets £18.50 from the Heritage Shop (0504 843211).

FASHION WEEK EVENTS: Free jewellery-making demonstration at 11am, children's jewellery-making workshop using recycled materials at 3pm, tickets £1. Fashion show 8pm. £4. The Mailings Arts Centre, St Albans, Hertfordshire (0727 44222). Today.

HEAD OF THE RIVER RACE: Processional race for eights over the University Boat Race course from Mortlake to Putney. 420 crews are taking part, leaving at 10-second intervals from 3pm. The race lasts about an hour and a half.

River Thames. Today.

MODELWORLD '90: One of the finest model and modellers' events with 17 layouts in all gauges and sizes demonstrating British, Continental and American practices. The Brighton Centre, Brighton, East Sussex (0273 203131). Today 10am-7pm, tomorrow 10am-6pm. Adult £2.50, child/senior citizen £1, family ticket £8.

CRAFT IN ACTION: Wide range of craft items for sale, plus demonstrations of various skills.

Durham Massey Hall. Altrincham, Cheshire. Today, tomorrow 10am-4.30pm. Admission free.

HANDS ON WORKSHOPS: Try your hand at spinning, weaving, dyeing, printing or paper-making. Toys and games for children. Woodland and riverside walks. Styl Workshop, Quarry Bank Mill, Styl, Wiltshire, Cheshire (0625 527488). Today, tomorrow, Mill admission, adult £2.25, child £2, car-park £1. Two-hour courses £2 each. Booking necessary.

TREES IN WINTER: A six-mile family walk looking at many different species of trees. Meet Neal Windott at the parish church — top gate — Kirkburton, south of Huddersfield. Today, 11.15am.

ALL THAT GLEISTERS: Bill and Christina Steenson demonstrate jewellery-making techniques. Ulster Museum, Botanic Gardens, Belfast. Tomorrow 2.30-4.30pm. Free.

Judy Froshang

CAMPUS

It's not what you know, but what you're like that counts, Ben Webster writes

Polishing off the veneer

The anxiety suffered by finalists as they prepare to be ejected into the real world has been soothed in recent years by the reassuring knowledge that they are entering a sellers' market. A myth has been realized: employers, alarmed at the shortage of graduates, will come grovelling in search of new recruits. Post-finals euphoria will inevitably be followed by a cascade of unsolicited offers of employment.

There are signs, however, that the cyclical graduate employment market is entering one of its downward phases. With prospects now less rosy, the nearly-graduate would be wise to consider what recruiters are really looking for.

Academic prowess is no passport to a good job. Three years spent in a library merely train you to sit there for another three years. The standards of achievement at university, set by dons, do not necessarily translate into the world of employment. The ability to solve Schrödinger's equation is no proof of business acumen. If you are destined for a 2-2, all is by no means lost.

Many students adopt the scientific approach to getting a job. They digest all the literature, attend the presentations, and spend their vacations acquiring relevant work experience. Recruiters, however, are increasingly inclined

I asked him to talk about himself and a very dominant, forceful and interesting person emerged... his mother.



Falling at the first fence deprives you of the opportunity to display your personality. Yet even the survivors may find themselves at the mercy of myopic interviewers. Of course, the vagaries of the whole selection process mean that the best candidates are often overlooked. Interviewers are only human, but in a buyer's market they can behave like gods.

● Only iron-clad egos will survive the experience of applying for jobs. "I regret to inform you that we shall not be asking you to proceed any further in our recruitment process." A patronizing paragraph will follow, telling you not to be too disheartened. Friends smugly thrusting acceptance under your nose make this difficult.

There are those, of course, who keep aloof from this whole business. Interrogated about their plans for next year, they reply airily: "I'm taking a year off." But those already bon viveurs on their golden hellos will sneer at this, and interpret it as a confession of failure. The simple fact that

From Alice Castle, University of Bordeaux, on an Erasmus exchange programme from Bristol University.

Bristol's traditional links with Bordeaux now extend to all Erasmus-funded exchange programmes between the two universities' history departments. The task of adapting to a new educational system and surviving life on a French campus, while proving to the four of us from Bristol — the first group to be sent to France

at problems of overcrowding and lack of funding by organizing a vigorous campaign of strikes and demonstrations. While it may seem that little has changed since the upheavals of 1968, it seems that Bordeaux's blues are not destined to fade to outright revolt in the immediate future. The truth is that the spring term

Fair exchange

COLLECTING

Oh boy, that'll be the day

Buddy Holly fans don't know what they'll be a-missin', John Shaw reports

The largest private collection of memorabilia devoted to Buddy Holly, the Fifties rock 'n' roll star, will be sold by Phillips in Bayswater, west London, on April 23.

One of Holly's biggest fans is Paul McCartney, the former Beatle whose company now owns the rights to all Holly's music. Phillips is sending him details of the sale.

Holly's act made him an unlikely star by modern standards: he wore a suit, heavy black-framed glasses, and stood relatively still on stage. But his songs, particularly "That'll Be The Day", inspired a wide and intense following and a biographical musical, *Buddy*, currently at the Victoria Palace in London is going to New York in the autumn.

David Howery, an American fan, collected more than 100 personal items that followed the singer's life through childhood, school days, recording studios and concerts. Holly's best-known British appearance was at the London Palladium in March, 1958. The grey two-piece suit that he wore that night is expected to make up to £40,000.

"The sale is important because of Holly's influence on so many other groups and because so few of his items ever appear at auction," said

Andrew Milton, the company's pop and music specialist. The entire collection could make between £400,000 and £500,000.

The sale takes place during the week when the three major auction houses hold their pop and rock sales. London has become the centre of this international collectors' market and the sales are held twice a year to cater for fans who fly in from Japan and the US.

Holly lived in Lubbock, a small town in Texas, and fans will be bidding for his high school yearbooks from 1949, '53, '54 and '55. The sale will include Holly's Walkie-Talkie camera (est £4,000-£5,000) and 29 lots of unpublished, hand-written lyrics (estimates vary from £2,800 to £8,000).

Holly's break came through a local radio station in December 1955. He was heard by Eddie Crandall, a Nashville agent, who sent a brief telegram to the head of the radio

station reading: "Have Buddy Holly cut four original songs on acetate. Don't change his style at all..." The message, now estimated to fetch between £8,000 and £10,000, led to Holly's first contract with Decca.

"That'll Be The Day" was heard by the Beatles and recorded by them privately in Liverpool, Milton says. "I think it's the first thing they ever did. There's only one known copy and that's owned by Paul McCartney."

"Buddy Holly had a group called the Crickets and that's why the Beatles chose their name. The Hollies named themselves after him. He wrote simple songs with simple chords and when you were learning to play the guitar they were easy to play. They were simple and catchy, but the best songs are simple."

Holly toured Britain in 1958. He appeared on *Sunday Night at the London Pal-*



Inspiration: Buddy Holly

adium, the television show that was almost a national institution at the time, and he then went on to Liverpool and Leicester. Among the postcards he wrote home was one complaining: "We are getting a little tired of England. It's awfully cold over here..."

The postcard is now worth between £3,000 and £5,000.

Among musical instruments on offer is a replica of his 1957 Fender Stratocaster guitar signed by the Everly Brothers. Peggy Sue — the girl of the song and members of his family (£2,000 to £4,000). A pair of his black suede loafers will fit anyone with shoe size 8½ and £10,000, while two pairs of his black glasses are perfect for the wealthy fan who can afford £15,000 a pair.

One of the most curious items is his wallet, lost while water-skiing on a lake six months before he died in a plane crash with two other singers, the Big Bopper and Ritchie Valens, in February, 1959. The wallet was found shortly after the crash when the lake was cleaned. It was sent home, water-stained, but with its contents intact — the singer's first driving licence and his autographed club membership cards. Among these, from his early days before the brief flash of stardom, is one from the Club for Unappreciated Musicians.

SALES GUIDE

South Street, Dorchester, Dorset (0305 65080). Viewing: Mon 9am-5pm, Tues 9am-7pm, Wed 9am-5pm, Thurs 9am. Sale: Thurs 10.30am.

CONTEMPORARY CERAMICS: Range of work from Hans Coper, Lucie Rie, Elizabeth Fritsch, Bernard Leach, Shoji Hamada, Michael Cardew and Picasso, and new or relatively unknown artists including Christine Jones, Janet Leach and the late Henry Hammond. Estimates range from £10,000 to £30,000. Bonham's, Montpelier Street, Knightsbridge, London SW7 (01-584 9181). Viewing: Mon 9am-7.30pm, Tues 9am-11.30am. Sale: Tues 2pm.

ARMS AND THE MAH: Douglas Bader's personal memorabilia will dominate this auction of militaria during the fiftieth anniversary year of the Battle of Britain, but

European and Japanese swords, modern and antique firearms and sword fittings will attract collectors in town for the annual arms fair at the Park Lane Hotel, Phillips, 101 New Bond Street, London W1 (01-629 8802). Viewing: Tues, Wed 9am-4.30pm, Thurs 9am-noon. Sale: Thurs 2pm.

SILVER SESSION: A couple of small pieces of Chester silver, a hand mirror and novelty pin cushion in the form of a wren (£100-£150), come home in a sale of silver, plate and allied wares followed by oriental ceramics and works of art spread over two days. Sotheby's, Booth Mansion, Watlington Street, Chester (0244 315531). Viewing: today 9am-12.30pm, Mon, Tues 9.30am-4.30pm. Silver sale: Tues 11am; ceramics Wed 11am.

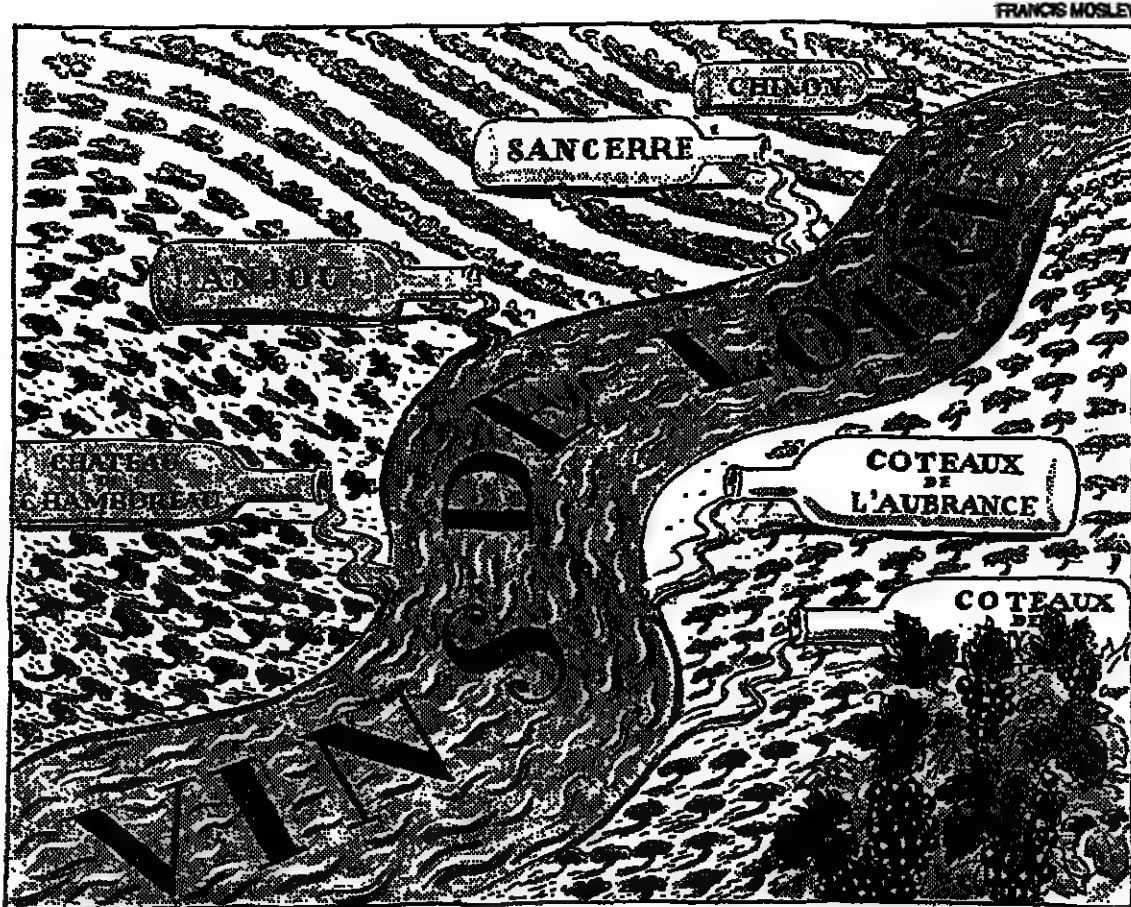
EATING OUT

Wines from the Loire valley are alive and well and can be found in Waterloo, Jonathan Meades discovers

Despite the south-west Wiltshire merchant Yapp's having plugged them for 20 years, despite their cheapness, despite the British familiarity with and fondness for the land they come from, despite their being fashionable in Paris and drunk to the exclusion of pretty much all others in Brittany, the red wines of the Loire valley are obstinately ignored in this country. Well, maybe ignored is to put it too strongly; but they are undoubtedly overlooked in the composition of restaurant lists. Perhaps the standard wisdom about Loire reds is that no one drinks them so they aren't worth selling. So it follows that sooner or later no one will be given the opportunity to drink them.

There have been and there still exist exceptions. The only decent restaurant my home town, Salisbury, ever had, a place called Crane's, showed a healthy interest. I'm pretty sure that at present there is no restaurant in Britain with a Loire list as extensive as RSJ's in Waterloo. The list suggests the work of a monomaniacal collector, it borders on the fetishistic. It is, furthermore, ungreedily priced — in fact, so dirt cheap that one might surmise that the owner of RSJ is as much in the business of vinous pedagogy as in that of running a restaurant. And, of course, every Loire white, every vin mousseux, every demi-sec and rosé you ever heard of and scores you've never seen before are to be found here. The inventory of sweet wines is lengthy, too. The only thing an ingrate might find to whine about is the too-curt list of half-bottles and the kindred shortage of wines by the glass. If ever a restaurant needed a machine to facilitate sampling by the glass then this is it; it's pointless to deny that much of the Loire's production is mature in a bottle, and even the most discerning buyer is liable to let some slip through in a fit of optimism. Having said that I must commend RSJ's 78 Chateau de Chambourcy: by the not very exacting standards of Anjou Cabernets this was outstanding. And the sweet Coteaux de l'Aubance (which is sold by the glass) was perkier than the more expensive wines of the Coteaux du Layon often are. Fans of Sancerre would very likely consider the '88 from La Guiberte crisp or gooseberry-fresh. I'm not a fan: acid for stripping the enamel off teeth seems closer to the mark. The good thing, incidentally, about Anjou Cabernets, irrespective of their quality, is that you can drink handfuls of the stuff and suffer no after-effects. This may not actually be a recommendation, but it's worth remembering if you do find yourself alone with a vat of it.

RSJ is handsomely housed in



A symphony of Loire wines

what seem to be former light industrial premises. You enter past an open kitchen and ascend to a low-ceilinged, small-windowed dining-room: metal, wood and wicker chairs; striped wallpaper; too many tables. The clientele the night I dined was mostly from out of town. I'd guess it included a group of tattersall-shirted classics teachers, one of whom had, mysteriously, cause to consult an Ordnance Survey map of Bedford, another of whom told a salutary tale of menu prose. He had encountered a bad case of restaurateur's euphemism — "symphonies" of this, a spot of "nestling" and so; he had subsequently composed a verse mocking these usages and sent it to the restaurant in question. This establishment was, amazingly, flattered by his attentions. As I keep saying, restaurateurs are from a different lexical planet. The menu

prose at RSJ is no more than averagely purple, but it is prolix. Every item seems to be sufficed by a two-line list of ingredients. As a general rule I'd suggest that the shorter the menu description the better the cooking: prize-winners for brevity are Markwick and Hunt, Harvey's, Kensington Place, The River Café — these establishments assume that their customers are literate adults. RSJ seems to believe it is catering to an audience raised on Cartland and toilet tissue.

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someone stuck a pin in a Tottenham Hotspur programme, watched it align on the name of the excitable midfielder Paul Gascoigne and subsequently misspelled it on the facia, the menu, the matches, etc. It certainly can't be called after an area of south-west France, with which it has only a tenuous connection — it offers *foie gras*.

I'm sure I'm right: this St John's Wood wine bar (with restaurant prices) plays host to the kind of freelance company directors who are proud to know professional footballers. Tears come to their eyes when they speak of the golden age of Chopper Harris and Peter Storey. Even their hair is football-related — it looks like the stuffing of a British Rail seat slashed open on the way back from Villa Park. The pioneer exponent of this imaginatively *ad hoc* cuisine is Kenny Jones of the Who. I guess that's enough hair talk, but I'll bet that the average toposer, or for that matter, the average British Rail seat innard doesn't taste much less savoury than Gascoigne's grub. I had a fish soup which was the colour of stains on a bath but which tasted slightly better than it looked. The sauce with it may have been an attempt at *rouille*, maybe *caviar*. It was not pleasant: I could go further and have a paragraph of damning smiles at it. But this is Saturday morning, this is a family newspaper and, besides, it doesn't do to get dangerously worked up over such picaresque matters as a wine-bar cook's inability to concoct an acceptable sauce.

It would be going too far to say that a carbonnade actually tasted like either a rug or a chest-wig (known in the bogus-whiskers trade as a "chig") but it would be accurate to state that it was not the real thing. Had it merely been billed as "beef stew" it would have been bad enough, but the promise of the authentic Belgian dish sets up a higher sort of expectation and, contrarily, prompts a larger dose of disappointment. Clearly I was at fault for having even thought that it might be related to the genuine article. The almost entirely flavourless meat is served with rice and nasty pieces of cheese on toast. What else? Well, there is loud, lyrically inspiring pop music ("Ay, teachah leave them kids alone"). There is the tendency of the staff to say "there you go" as they dump food in front of you. There is the practice of shoving a chunk of lime into lager bottles and there is the look of incredulity when the culprit is asked to remove it. A three-course meal for two with wine would work out at about £32. It is threatened that this be the first of a chain. What next? Linsane? Vennible? The very idea demands a red card.

DIRECTORY

Stars — up to a maximum of 10 — are for cooking rather than swags and chandeliers. Prices are for a three-course meal for two. They include an aperitif and modest wine in the case of French places, tea in the case of oriental ones and so on. Prices changed: they usually go up. Dishes also may have changed — they are given only as an indication of the establishment's repertoire. I accept no responsibility for disappointments and claim no credit for happy surprises. Always phone first. J.M.

FRENCH REGIONAL

Le Breconier
467 Upper Richmond Road,
London SW14 (01-878 2853)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Variable French regional cooking in a small East Sheen dining-room. The chef's rather unusual forte seems to be prime dishes — the sweetbreads are excellent and rabbit with that dried fruit is pretty good, too. £58.

Zazou
74 Charlotte Street, London
W1 (01-436 5133)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Southern French fish restaurant in a smart basement with some sort of cocktail bar on the ground floor. Many of the dishes are slightly and — unusual — successfully orientalised: oysters with curry sauce, salmon with soy and ginger. Grilled fish is simply served with extra virgin olive oil. The cooking is unfailingly impressive and so are the cheeses which are, oddly, all British. £74.

Low Pessacade
241 Old Brompton Road,
London SW5 (01-370 1057)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Informal Provencal fish restaurant where rare meat dishes are perfectly sound — pasta with shellfish, marvellous apple tart. The place does not accept bookings which means that you need to arrive early or very late. Service is at best brusque and too frequently degenerates into hostility and noise. £40.

Vuiche
54 Cumberland Church Street,
London SE5 (01-701 7821)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Very French bistro frequented by very French punters. The cooking is altogether good and generally well-served — duck confit, cassoulet, that sort of thing. The portions are massive and the staff are unusually welcoming. Inefficient young wines. £50.

St Jacques
27-31 Basil Street, London
SW3 (01-584 4484)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Vaguely theatrical, faintly surreal interior. Thoroughly accomplished, very confident cooking by an Englishman, Nigel Davies, who draws on the repertoire of the French South West and breeds a spacy path between reverence and irreverence. Sausages with warm oysters, scallops with sauce of garlic and parsley, duck with braised cabbage — these are excellent. The service is good, too. The punters are interestingly

mixed and the atmosphere is one of stressless bustle. £45-£55.

ENGLISH

Wilson's
236 Blythe Road, London W14
(01-603 7267)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Austere decorated neighbourhood restaurant whose Anglo-French cooking is of a standard associated with much more elevated joints. The dishes don't sound that promising and some combinations — goose breast with quince jam — suggest a scrambling for novelty. But many of them work well. Much improved wine list, friendly service. £45.

Rules
35 Maiden Lane, London WC2
(01-336 5314)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Solid trad Englishness on the plate and in the atmosphere. The pinfish, the mandarin, the spooks, the late-Victorian decorative scheme. Steak and kidney pud and savouries are recommended. £45.

Nautilus
27 Fortune Green Road,
London NW6 (01-435 2532)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Probably the best fish and chip restaurant in London (also take-away). Crisp, grease-free better than close to water-tort better. The portions are generous, the chips are fine. £18.

Jason's Court Restaurant
Jason's Court, off Wigmore
Street, London W1
(01-224 2992)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Accomplished new wave English cooking in a basement in an alley that is all too easy to miss. Chef Shaun Thomson worked under Moirhead at The Dorchester and while, to some extent, he still apes his master, he is clearly his own man too. Beef ribs and the marvellous braised and buttered pork with recommended. The wines are okay but expensive. £75.

WEST COUNTRY

Markwick and Hunt
43 Corn Street, Bristol 1
(0272 262858)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Spectacularly fine cooking in a Bristol basement. This is one of the most congenial restaurants in the UK and certain of its dishes are a match for those of anywhere in Europe. Quaint food with Canavese and cream could not be improved; the house terrine (the idea might sound frightful) is as good a bit of home-made as you'll ever get; hake is done with simple expertise in a *parade*; venison is excellent. The wine list is very special indeed. Great service, totally amiable service. £55-£70.

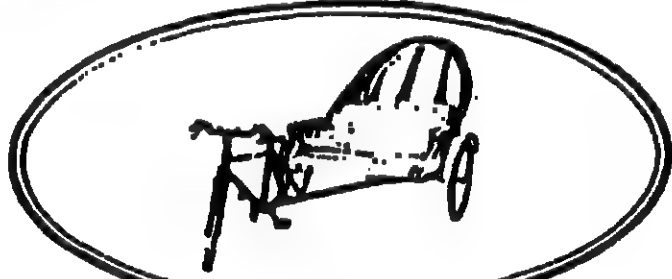
White's
53 High Street, Cricklade,
Wiltshire (0783 75110)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Confident and assertive cooking that tastes of something. Colin White's stuff is unabashedly rustic, generous, hearty and lovely. Soup with fine *croûtes*; creamy turnips; duck with pineapple. Excellent British farmhouse cheeses. The service is friendly, the wines are bargain. £50.

RESTAURANT AND CATERING GUIDE

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FOOD

Oat out, rice in

Oat bran was last year. The health fad which brought you oat bran bread, oat bran biscuits and even oat bran chocolate puffs could be about to be superseded by the bran of a brand new seed — rice.

Food fetishists have not felt quite the same about oat bran since the *New England Journal of Medicine* suggested that the only way it could really reduce cholesterol in the blood might be if you ate so much of it you had little room for anything else.

But now comes rice bran. Rice bran, its promoters say, shares oat bran's ability to lower cholesterol "when taken as part of a low fat diet", but it has added advantages.

They believe that where the efficiency of oats may be impaired by cooking, rice

bran's effect on cholesterol depends on something other than soluble fibre — probably its content of plant sterols — and "therefore may not be affected by cooking".

Moreover, rice bran is almost four times higher in insoluble fibre than oat bran, and insoluble fibre it is thought, helps guard against colon cancer.

Further still, about 14 per cent of rice bran is protein, and it is a good source of vitamins and minerals.

And finally — and this could be the clincher — rice bran is more palatable than oat bran because it is naturally sweet and can be eaten straight from the pack. Even the sturdiest

devotees seldom tried that with oat bran.

In the United States, studies have suggested that baked products prepared with rice bran taste better, and are sweeter, more moist and lighter than those prepared with oat bran.

Strangely, the only time that most people in the United Kingdom will have heard of rice bran before was last year when a consignment of it, contaminated with lead, was released as animal feed and killed 40 cows and swept millions of pints of milk off the market.

Rice bran should not contain lead, of course, but it does harbour most of the vitamins,

oil and much of the protein of the original grain. Yet it has been used almost exclusively to feed livestock.

You could, though, be getting yours soon. Already a company called General Design, of Worcester Park, Surrey, is distributing Ener-G Pure Rice Bran to health food shops, principally at this stage, as a fibre source for people with coeliac disease and wheat allergies.

And this month I bought my first bottle of rice bran oil in the Army & Navy Stores food hall (£1.58 for 375cl). The label proclaims it cholesterol-free, and on the back it adds that it has been popular in Japan for 50 years. I can't help thinking, shouldn't we have been told?

Robin Young

Safety tests to be sniffed at

In my supermarket I can choose any day between a Bleu d'Auvergne and a Bleu de Bresse, a Brie *industrialisé* and a Brie de Meaux, a Pont l'Évêque and a Camembert, a Chaurouche and a Brillat Savarin, a Port Salut and a Reblochon, and between a dozen goats and ewes.

That's just the French cheese. There's also a cornucopia of Dutch, Swiss, Italian, Greek, Welsh, Irish and English. There's cooked and uncooked, farmhouse, artisanal or factory-made, soft and hard, aged and fresh, with crust or washed, charcoaled or stuck with peppercorns or raisins.

But are they fit to eat? Those serried ranks of goodies may not be what they seem. As Patrick Rance, poet of cheese and founder of the great Wells Stores in Streteley, Berkshire, points out: "Cheeses by the same name vary from maker to maker, from season to season, and the same cheese can vary from day to day." Can any supermarket honestly take account of such subtle variations?

Then there's the vital matter of temperature and humidity. Rance's experience is that "50-60°F is kind, 45-50°F ideal for long-term storage... Below 40°F can be fatal to the cheese." So are those so scrupulously hygienic supermarket shelves quietly giving once thriving cheeses the kiss of death?

Ripeness is all, and the French supermarkets usually solve the problem by installing special counters, manned by knowledgeable staff, where living, breathing cheeses may be discussed, prodded, sniffed and tasted to see if they are ready for the table that night or on the morrow.

According to Caroline Gledhill, retail manager of Paxton & Whitefield in Jermyn Street (cheesemongers since 1797) and herself an old supermarket hand, cheese poses special problems for the big chains. Profit margins are not good. You can't standardize sell-by

dates. You can't recycle cheese, so there is wastage. Buying is centralized and there is a lack of knowledge in the outlets.

Juliet Harbutt, who runs the delectable Jereboams in Bute Street and Elizabeth Street in central London (the nearest things to a top Paris *fromagerie* you will find in London), partly because her French cheese comes from Androuet, the undisputed big cheese in the field, has Munster-strong views on the supermarket product. She claims that, throughout the progress of the stuff from

maker to wholesaler to retailer (usually in over-refrigerated trucks) nobody with any expertise has actually looked at the cheese, let alone prodded, tasted, sniffed, etc.

One reason why this expertise is lacking is that, in contrast to other branches of the food industry — baking, butchery, fishmongery — there exist in England no facilities for training people in the mysteries of cheese.

Hugh Rance, the painter son of the master, who now runs the Streteley shrine, agrees that the buyers lack knowledge of the product and that at this

end nobody checks the cheeses: they just date the package and put it on the shelves — from where it is as unthinkingly removed by customers for the next month or more. In his shop there are three separate storage/maturing areas, with differing temperature-humidity controls for different types of cheese (big farmhouse Cheddars settle in for at least 18 months).

The shelves themselves, Rance says, being refrigerated, are noxious to the cheese. Refrigeration works by drawing air, and therefore moisture, out of the refrigerator, so the cheese dries out. Listeria hysteria has not helped, and the new laws will make things worse for the demanding palate. (Juliet Harbutt gloomily foresees a future in which only pasteurized cheese will be available.)

So can anything be done? Well, if you are lucky enough to live near the three cheese havens I've mentioned, you'll be in good hands. Improvisation is another answer. In my local Sainsbury, the Camembert, Pont l'Évêque and Brie de Meaux are, *en principe*, of the highest quality, from suppliers with impeccable credentials. But all are routinely sold with pallid crusts (they look as if a month in the country would do them the world of good) and with, inside, a solid strip of what the French sardonically call *ce ment*. I have found that in the case of Camembert and Pont l'Évêque these faults may be rectified by nursing them at a warmer temperature for about a week, when they come close to resembling the kind of cheese you are offered in France when you have confirmed that it is "point ce soif".

The Brie, although the mushroomy smell of the ripe product is unmistakable, will not, alas, ripen after it has been cut. So look for slices that are creamy yellow all through. If you don't find them, hard cheese.

Charles Hennessy

مكنا من الأضواء

DRINK

Wine labels for polyglots

Once you are fluent in the language of French wine labels, Jane MacQuitty writes, it's time to take on the rest of Europe, and then the world

Every European wine-producing country has a different method of classification, even though the French *appellation d'origine contrôlée*, or AC system, is accepted as the international blueprint for wine regulations.

Italy has the most topsy-turvy set of rules. It sells many of its finest wines under its humblest *Vino da Tavola* (table wine) designation. As soon as it instigated a superior *Denominazione di origine controllata* (DOC) category for its wines, it ruined its reputation by dishing it out to all and sundry. It awarded its finest quality category, *Denominazione di origine controllata e garantita* (DOCG), to a handful of first-class wines, then wrecked it by giving Chianti a blanket DOCG approval and elevating, among others, an ordinary white from the North, Albana di Romagna, to the same level.

There is no logic, at present, to Italian wine rules and regulations. Italian wine producers claim it is a system like any other, and if they have to break, or "interpret", the law in order to make the best wine in their region, they do so without compunction.

However, Italy and its unruly wine producers will have to shape up soon. The EC is committed to standardizing wine laws and reform of the DOC and DOCG regulations is inevitable.

Italy's first attempt at establishing a wine hierarchy along the lines of the French AC system came in 1963 with DOC. Like the French system, the Italian one is not a guarantee of quality, but merely an indication that a wine comes from a defined region, is made from certain grapes with a particular yield and vinified in a certain way. Regional characteristics and traditions are as fundamental to the Italian system as they are to the French. There is, however, a big difference. While the French did their best to upgrade quality, the Italians have mostly given in to current practices. This explains why so many wine producers fail to follow the rules.

To date there are three Italian quality levels, all of which appear on wine labels. *Vino da Tavola*, the equivalent of the French *Vin de Table* category, offers everything from plonk to top quality wines. A new — and not yet implemented — *Vini Tipici* (typical wine category), similar to the French *Vin de Pays*, may help consumers sort out the better *Vino da Tavola*. On the next rung are the DOC wines. There are now some 250 of these which are usually governed by a local *consorzio*, or consortium of growers, as well as the national DOC committee.

Politics play a large part in DOC life, and the chief problems include high yields and the practice of blending in wines from outside a region. The highest Italian wine designation is DOCG. There are currently six Italian DOCGs, with others on the way: *Vino Nobile di Montepulciano*, *Brunello di Montalcino*, *Barolo* and *Barbaresco* are all more or less justifiable DOCG members, but Chianti and Albana di Romagna still produce some awful wines.

Other useful Italian label terminology includes the words *classico* and *riserva*.

Classico indicates that the wine has come from the traditional heart of the region of production, as in Chianti *Classico*. *Riserva* is just what it sounds like — a wine, sometimes a special selection, that has undergone extra ageing. The word *superiore* is worth looking out for, too, as it usually indicates a superior DOC wine with higher alcohol content and further ageing.

There are numerous Italian names for farms and wineries. *Azienda* means a farm or estate, so *azienda vinicola* denotes an estate that buys in grapes, and *casa vinicola* a house or company that buys in grapes. *Tenuta* and *poderi* also mean farm or estate. *Cantina* by itself indicates a winery or cellar, but when it is followed by *sociale* or *cooperativa* it means a co-operative wine.

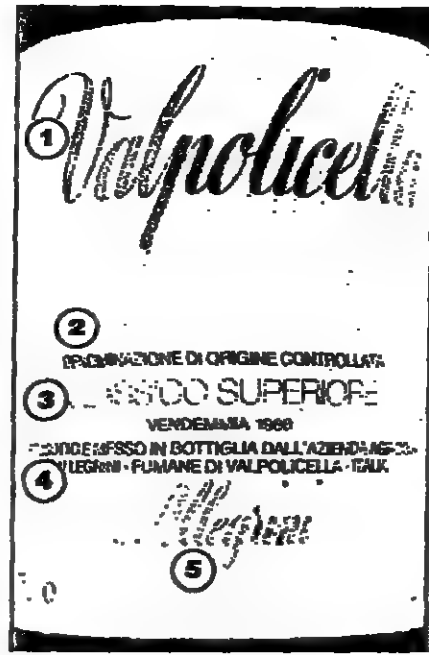
If the Italians specialize in "interpreting" the law, then the Germans follow it to the last detail. Unfortunately, their needlessly complicated labels are not a great help to the consumer. The German system is logical, however, right down to using different coloured glass for its two leading regions: green for Mosel and brown for Rhine, or *hock*.

The badly constructed 1971 wine laws have been revised on numerous occasions, but they are still far from perfect: at worst, they allow quantities of bland sugar-water to go out under quality labels. The latest revision should reduce the extraordinarily high yields attained by German wine producers, as it limits the amount of wine that can be sold every year. Even so, most of Germany's quality wines achieve yields of more than 100 hectolitres per hectare, roughly twice that of French quality wines.

The key to decoding German wine labels is the knowledge that sweetness is everything. This means that, except for the lower categories, the sweeter the wine, the better it is deemed to be. Lowest of the German wines is the *Tafelwein* category. This is a blend of wines from EC countries, rarely German, that have been bottled in Germany. Half a notch up is *Deutscher Tafelwein*, a German blend of table wine, followed by *Landwein*, or country wine, that the Germans feel corresponds to the French *Vin de Pays* category.

Most German wines fall into the next category, QbA, or *Qualitätswein bestimmter Anbaugebiete*. These quality wines come from one of the 11 specified regions, and often sound a lot better than they taste. They all carry an AP number which is given after passing official blind tasting and chemical analysis tests. As with quality French and Italian wines, Germany's QbAs have to display regional, varietal and traditional characteristics.

However, the most obvious characteristic is sweetness, which, at the QbA level, will usually have been gained by the addition of *Süssreserve* (unfermented grape juice). Other indicators on QbA labels are the grape variety (*Riesling* is the finest), the name of the village or wine-making community, and an *Erntezahl* or vineyard site. There are 3,000 vineyard sites, so even specialist German merchants will not know them all. There are also 150 *Grosslagen*, groups of individual sites or vineyards, a term invented for those who



ITALY: (1) Name of wine; (2) Official DOC status; (3) Denotes a superior selected wine from the heart of the Valpolicella region; (4) Produced and bottled in the Allegrini estate; (5) Producer's name



SPAIN: (1) Official regional title of wine; (2) Superior aged wine; (3) Name of the winery that produced the wine; (4) From the Oltari village in the superior Rioja Alta district; (5) Bottled at the property



GERMANY: (1) Producer's name; (2) Village name; (2a) Vineyard name; (3) Grape variety and QmP quality level; (4) Official quality rating; (5) Official quality control number; (6) Wine region

wanted the cachet of a village name even if their wines lacked the quality. Even worse are the vast districts of *Berich* that the Germans created. These appear on the most ordinary bottles, which are still deemed "quality" wines. These are supposed to indicate a collection of *Grosslagen* or *Erntezahlen*, but little specific vineyard quality shines through. Germany's next category, QmP, or *Qualitätswein mit Prädikat*, is superior to QbA because the sweetness in the wines stems from the ripeness of the grapes, not from *Süssreserve*. In addition to the QbA nomenclature I have already described, expect to see one of the following on your QmP label. There are six ascending sweetness tiers, with *Kabinett* the driest, followed by the medium-sweet *Spätlese* and *Auslese*, and the *Beerenauslese*, *Eiswein* and *Trockenbeerenauslese* levels which will taste sweet.

The most encouraging aspect about Germany's detailed labels and sugar-water wines is that its wine authorities are aware of the inadequacies of their current system. By comparison, Spanish and Portuguese wines have mostly escaped tedious terminology, and there are few indications on the label. Since these two countries joined the EC their wine labels have improved, but they are still notoriously bad at quoting

the vintage. This information is essential in the assessment of freshness of white and, to a lesser extent, red wines from hot wine-producing countries. Spain's old system of labelling wine 19 años, 20 años, 30 años, and so on, which indicates the wine was bottled during the first, second or third year after it was made, did not help when the vintage date was left off. Vintages now appear on most Iberian labels and Portugal's *Região Demarcada* and Spain's *DO*, *Denominación de Origen*, are gradually coming in line with the AC system. Expect to see Portugal's *Vinho Regional* and Spain's *Vino de la Tierra*, equivalents to the French *Vin de Pays* level, on wine labels here soon.

Watch out for the word *garrafeira* on a Portuguese label. It indicates a specially selected wine which, if red, has been aged in cask for two years, followed by one year in bottle, or, if white, aged for six months before and after bottling. Spain's aged

WINE-BUYS
 ● 1986 Las Torres Merlot, London Wine, Chelmsford, 15 Lobs Road, London SW10 6AS. Miguel Torres's latest Spanish offering is this Merlot wine from the Penedes region, aged for two months in oak casks. Its youthful plummy-grassy fruit is still too herbaceous and vegetal for most palates but, given time, should flesh out pleasantly.
 ● 1988 Vin de Pays de l'Hérault, Caves des Closiers, Sals, The Victoria Wine Company, £2.68. This pricey black label Côtes du Frontonnais wine is worth splashing out on for its velvety palate puts it way ahead of the ordinary Frontonnais pack.
 ● 1988 Domaine de la Garenne, Berry Bros & Rudd, 3 St James's Street, London SW1 1LS. This lovely, rich, smoky-fruity Côtes du Ventoux has an especially seductive spicy scent and oodles of ripe, peppery Rhône fruit on the palate.
 ● 1987 Château Montcalon, Carls Heine, Odebrecht £7.68. This pricey black label Côtes du Frontonnais wine is worth splashing out on for its velvety palate puts it way ahead of the ordinary Frontonnais pack.

THE TIMES COOK

Hot lines from Hong Kong

Frances Bissell reports on current Occidental tastes at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, where she is working as guest cook



DIANA LEADHETER

I was going to start by saying that there are compensations for slaving over a hot stove all day in the Mandarin Oriental Hotel kitchens in Hong Kong, but that would be to distort the truth. There has been so much heat and good-will that I have scarcely been allowed to roll up my sleeves and tie on an apron, let alone do any slaving.

After three days of preparation, one day each in the cold kitchen, the pastry kitchen and the hot kitchen, where sous chef Bernd Meister gently reminded me not to add salt to a marinade for spiced beef (because this toughens the meat), my dishes were displayed on the buffet for lunch. The beef and pigeon cobbler looked magnificent with a coronet of shiny, golden scones; the salmon with fennel in a saffron sauce smelled delicious. The Brussels sprouts, which had been ordered by the chef in advance, were slowly turning the silver chafing dish an unappetizing shade of blue. Off they came. On the cold buffet were silver platters of marinated salmon and scallops, and mackerel prepared like a marinated for spiced beef (because this toughens the meat), my dishes were displayed on the buffet for lunch. The beef and pigeon cobbler looked magnificent with a coronet of shiny, golden scones; the salmon with fennel in a saffron sauce smelled delicious. 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Love in a strange climate

CHILDREN

Brian Alderson

THE OUTSIDE CHILD
By Nina Bayden
Gollancz, £8.95

In the words of Jane Tucker: "My mother is dead and my father is busy." The busy-ness involves marine engineering, with frequent sailings to Australia, but even when the voyaging is done father is not much in evidence, so Jane is brought up by two engagingly dotty maiden aunts.

What triggers the story is Jane's discovery that the reason for her father's absence while on leave is because he has married again and that, all unbeknown, she possesses a half-brother and a half-sister. How can this be? Father — the aunts — these are civilized persons. Why should they want to conceal so momentous a fact?

Thirteen-year-old Jane and her



Quentin Blake has unleashed some of his most frenzied artistry on a set of four volumes by John Yeman, extending the adventures of Old Mother Hubbard into hitherto unexplored territory. This picture is from *Old Mother Hubbard's Dog Dresses Up* (Walker Books, £2.95).

buddy, 12-year-old Plato Jones, decide to find out.

This is no tale of children playing detective, though. Coded letters and mysterious telephone calls do occur, but Jane is a deeply sympathetic, level-headed character, and as she progresses in her discoveries, the thing that comes to matter is the effect that they have on her.

Finding the children, playing with them as though she were a stranger ("the outside child"), gradually makes her the participant in a love-story — a story about love —

and the reader takes it as hard as Jane herself when the plot comes to pieces in her hands.

By all the codes of children's fiction, the outside child should end up inside. Jane's stepmother — the cause of all the trouble — should reform gracefully, and everyone live happily ever after.

But Nina Bayden is too honest a novelist for that. Her muted ending has the disappointment of un-entirely true about it — and yet it is a truth that Jane, and Plato Jones as well, will grow on.

Breathing freely in a socialist future

The most famous song of all time, whose author's *dacha* was next to ours when I was a boy, won the hearts of free men from Archangel to Berlin with the following lines:

I do not know any other country
Where man is breathing so free

That was under Stalin, although I am sure Mao had his own version. None the less, in 1982 in China, and in 1985 in Russia, a new, improved kind of freedom emerged. It was the freedom to say that in no country had man breathed less free than in Mao's China or Stalin's Russia.

"No one is more of a slave," said Goethe, "than he who imagines himself free without being so." The tragedy of freedom — not in a new, improved sense, but in its original meaning of absolute sovereignty of the individual — is that the blinding truth of this Romantic vision is finding fewer and fewer adherents. Thus those in the West who imagine Soviet slaves of today, or Chinese slaves before June 4, 1989, as more free than they had been under Stalin and Mao are themselves slaves.

The simulacrum of economic, political, and cultural freedoms, allowed by totalitarian oligarchs while they wage peace with the West, has often been compared with that of Lenin's years, including his New Economic Policy, except that today's "freedoms" are really new. They are certainly not improved: in 1940, long after the demise of the NEP, 11.7 per cent of Russia's population was engaged in permitted "private enterprise", while the figure for 1987 was 0.1 per cent. Does this mean that Stalin's slaves were 100 times more economically free than they are today? Not at all. It means that even economic freedom — the simplest freedom, "the liberty to buy and sell, and otherwise contract with one another", as Hobbes has it in his *Leviathan* — cannot be understood in terms of permissions and prohibitions. Other freedoms may be harder to define, but it is useful to recall that in 1940 one could say much with equanimity — for instance, "Pushkin is a great Russian writer" — that could only have been said at great risk to one's career under Lenin.

History shows the word "Communism" to have been applied to itself by the Soviet oligarchy very intensely from 1918 to 1934, less intensely from 1935 to 1953, somewhat more intensely from 1954 to 1984, and hardly at all since 1985. Stalinist fluctuations can be plotted with the word "socialism" in focus. But while totalitarian reality itself is there to teach the slave how to interpret such words at home, competent apologists are

Andrei Navrozov ponders what effect the collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe could have on world socialism — as interpreted by a Soviet apologist

THE DIALECTIC OF CHANGE
By Boris Kagaritsky
Verso, £29.95

needed to interpret them abroad. Thus the current "collapse of Communism", greeted so euphorically by the political right in the West, may well antagonize the political left, bewildering not only Communists but the broader cultural stratum sympathetic to the ideals of socialism. It was old Russia's socialists, not monarchists or constitutional democrats, who fought the Bolsheviks hardest under the new Soviet regime, and today's Soviet oligarchs know full well that Britain is not all Tory yuppies.

Hence *The Dialectic of Change*. The author, introduced by the publisher, modestly but firmly, as "a Soviet citizen", is here to interpret the "collapse of Communism" for the benefit of those on the left who have begun to suspect that Andropov's *perestroika* is a power shift from the Communist Party to some other oligarchic entity, one which may do even less for their socialist ideals than the "Communists", from Lenin to Brezhnev, had done. I say nothing of Kagaritsky's motives: no doubt he feels himself really free to think and write about the future of socialism. The fact that what he thinks and writes is what he is allowed to think and write may, for our purposes, be called a coincidence. Was it not a coincidence, after all, that Boris Pasternak in 1928 added the mention of Lenin to his immortal *High Noon*? It is only by reminding ourselves that Kagaritsky's subject is economic and political freedom (not, as in the poet's case, the freedom of ecstasy and despair) that we can see this book for what it is — *perestroika's* Trojan horse in the camp of world socialism — and its author for what he is, a Soviet apologist.

He is a good apologist. His grasp of economics, for instance, allows him to make mince-meat of mutual contradictions tormenting the soul of man "under capitalism", torn as it is between Keynes and Hayek. His command of sociology permits him to analyse such phenomena as

the rise of Solidarity in Poland, with the conclusion that the "democratic movement, striving for genuine renewal in Eastern Europe, cannot do without either Marxist theory or a revolutionary strategy". His common sense suggests that "it is one thing to desire democracy and another to realize it in practice", while his urbane side reveals a familiarity with Jung and Xenophon.

Credit should be given to Yuri Andropov, Kagaritsky writes with cool detachment in "Perestroika", the book's last chapter and in every sense its grand finale, "who, during his tenure as head of the KGB, began the very difficult job of uniting various factions in the apparatus." These "healthy forces" received a further boost with "the selection of Mikhail Gorbachev as General Secretary", although their job was, and remains, difficult. Kagaritsky's conclusion? "Upon which forces gain the upper hand depends the future of socialism in our country and, perhaps, the whole world."

This last sentence of *The Dialectic of Change* can be paraphrased as follows: unless you, western socialists, endorse the transfer of power from Brezhnev's Communist Party to Andropov's secret police apparatus as enthusiastically as Mrs Thatcher has done, you may never see the future where man at last breathes free. Really free, not like under Lenin, Stalin, Khrushchev, and Brezhnev.

Funny little Belgian

Chris Petit

THE LIFE AND TIMES
OF HERCULE POIROT
By Anne Hart
Pavilion, £14.95

When asked about writing poetry, Dylan Thomas replied that he'd far rather lie in a hot bath sucking boiled sweets and reading Agatha Christie. As Thomas well knew, what counts with Christie are the conditions under which she is read; remove the boiled sweets and hot bath and what is left? As Poirot, that careful arranger of his own comforts, would say, *rien*. By making Poirot such an old hypochondriac, Christie seemed aware of the fact that her books make for ideal convalescent reading. Though one thinks of her stories as emotionally chilly, she allows Poirot no end of cossetting: no country house draught is too slight, no malady too *imaginaire* for Poirot not to take to the comfort of his bed.

During Christie's heyday, there was a point to his complaints, which expressed a reasonable protest against the inconveniences of English middle-class life: lack of adequate heating, a mania for fresh air, poor food ill-cooked and badly presented. The Americans misleadingly call this drab genre "English cosy", a term rather better applied to the conditions the reader is invited to create before settling down with a Christie.

Hercule Poirot appeared first in 1916, already according to Christie, "not too young" in *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*. His last appeal — he staggered

through until the 1970s, bemused no doubt by the domestic changes brought about by the arrival of central heating in England — is something of a mystery in itself. He seems to have been invented primarily as a joke against the average English reader, to embody everything French that the middle classes had been brought up to despise: vanity, immodesty, intellectual capacity, patent leather shoes, silly moustaches and dressing up like a bear. Something called Revivix is used on his hair, and he comes from Belgium.

The paradox of Poirot is that he is essentially a comic character created by a humourless writer, something that Christie herself was probably aware enough to realize. Poirot is foreign only in so much as he is not English (Christie's Belgium could be Ruritania for all that it actually matters). She leaves his biography vague and underdeveloped, and offers mannerisms instead of any rooted sense of character, the better to contrast with the Englishness of what is her proper target. In her own modest

way, Christie was as accurate as Jane Austen on the narrow social conventions of a particular class.

As such, Poirot, the funny outsider, seems the result of an immaculate conception in a way that his greater contemporary, Jules Maigret, does not. Poirot's conceit permits none of the mental anguish — beyond *ennui* — endured by Maigret, nor does he view his work with anything like the same sense of vocation. Though not above a little matchmaking, he is no mender of destinies in the manner of M. Maigret. And yet readers have happily put up with him all these years. The reason, one assumes, is because he delivers results, which is, after all, why Christie is read, and he has solved some of her most ingenious crimes. After Poirot's denouement things are usually allowed to return, almost as though by magic, to normal: many of her stories — with their carefully domestic settings — function as exercises in clever housekeeping.

The problem with Anne Hart's Poirot is that she offers nothing beyond biographical summaries of Poirot and subsidiary characters. The result is a perfect example of barking up the wrong tree. Character is of little importance to either Christie or reader. In his lively appreciation of Christie, *A Talent to Deceive*, Robert Barnard wrote that "in her classic phase she is icily detached from her characters, the places they live in, and from any opinion or attitude they may hold. Dorothy L. Sayers is besotted with Lord Peter. Agatha Christie feels no emotion toward any of her creations: perhaps Poirot rouses a flicker of irritation, but that is all one can say."

The interest in reading Christie lies solely in working toward the solution. Anne Hart's book plays fair and does not reveal results, but this denies its practical evidence of Poirot's genius. What is left is a tedious little man too full of himself, an opinion, it seems, roughly corresponding to Christie's own. In *Mrs McGinty's Dead*, Christie has the detective writer, Ariadne Oliver, burst out in exasperation against her own Poirot-like creation: "Why a Finn when I know nothing of Finland? Why all the idiotic mannerisms? These things just happen. You try something — and people seem to like it — and then you go on — and before you know where you are, you've got someone like that maddening [person] tied to you for life. And people even write and say how fond you must be of him. Fond of him? If I ever met [him] in real life, I'd do a better murder than any I've ever invented."



Five Poirots: top left, Peter Ustinov, 1978. Charles Laughton, 1928. David Suchet, 1988-90. Albert Finney, 1976. Above, a 1938 drawing

Art on loan to the devil

Benedict Nightingale

PLAYING FOR TIME
By Arthur Miller
Nick Hern Books, £4.95



Internal conflicts and urgent moral questions: Arthur Miller, left, and Vanessa Redgrave

No one who managed to sit and somehow endure the television version of *Playing for Time* is likely to forget the experience. For myself, I don't think Vanessa Redgrave has given a more searching and searing performance than as Fania Felenso, the Jewish-French singer who survived Auschwitz solely because she became a member of its women's orchestra.

There was the moment when she tried, and failed, to resist carrying the sausage by selling herself to a guard. There was the moment when she watched the hanging of the bold, inspirational Mala, recaptured after escaping in an SS uniform. By the end Redgrave had developed the haunted, ravaged, withered look you might imagine in someone trying to keep her self-respect while entertaining the demons stalking the fires of hell.

Arthur Miller retains the first of those moments in this stage adaptation of that remarkable screenplay. The second, perhaps inevitably, is reduced to Fania's post-hoc description of Mala's dignified end. There are things that can be done on television that are harder on stage. You can switch locations, box-car to camp, dormitory to rehearsal-room, but not so speedily, not so fluently. You cannot easily shift your audience's attention from face to face to face.

There are other problems, too. The television *Playing for Time* lasted considerably longer than most people are prepared to stay seated in a theatre. So Miller has condensed his story, but at some cost. For instance, we get the hideously touching sequence in which the women's commandant tries to adopt a beautiful child, and goes half-mad when "duty" obliges her eventually to send him to the gas ovens. Indeed, we get all the play's other key events, but more cursorily, and with less chance of emotional impact. It is the same with the characterization. One thing the theatre can do at least as well as television is, of course, explore individual psychology. But

What is it like to be Japanese? Their merchandise is in every European home, but their lives are as enigmatic as ever. Perhaps it is hardly fair to expect Shusaku Endo to lead us to an answer. A Catholic, he spent some years studying in France as a young man, and is deeply read in western literature. His books are grounded in two traditions. They are not European, but they know too much about Europe to provide a safe guide to Japanese thinking.

A baffling doubleness is what confronts the hero of *Scandal*, his latest work. Suguro, like Endo, is a novelist approaching an honourable old age after a lifetime of success. He is serenely married and a practising Catholic, a man who has come to terms with the colliding cultures that direct his work.

Suguro acknowledges omnipresent sin, but sees within it a perverse virtue. With the inexorable logic of his faith, he perceives that transgression is, after all, the means to salvation. Sin contains within itself a longing for rebirth.

But logic lets Suguro down badly. Finding himself entangled in a malevolent plot to blacken his good

Double defeat of reason

FICTION

Dinah Birch

SCANDAL
By Shusaku Endo
Penguin, £4.99

character, he is forced to acknowledge cruelty of a kind which disables grace. Outraged, he struggles to reach a way of understanding what he sees. His slow disintegration is a product of what his vision of humanity had left out. This is a novel that mourns the defeat of reason. Its characters are compounded of contradictions that refuse resolution. They embody tenderness and depravity, loyalty

Connolly's world war

Hugh David

FRIENDS OF PROMISE
Cyril Connolly and the
World of Horizon
By Michael Sheldon
Minerva, £5.99

I ignore the odd Americanism — "sidewalk", "tight money", "foul-ups" — and it is almost impossible to believe that Michael Sheldon is not one of us. Even more remarkable — so skillfully does the professor of English at Indiana State University convey the mood and feel of blitzed and rationed London in the Forties — is the fact that he is too young to have lived through a single day of them.

Doubly an outsider, he nevertheless remains an ideal guide to a byway of literary history down which many of those on the inside track have feared, or not bothered, to tread. Until Robert Hewison's study of wartime writing, *Under Siege*, appeared in 1977, one could have been forgiven for thinking the Forties had no literature at all.

The position is rather different today; and in this latest study of the writers of the period, Sheldon makes a good case for saying that Cyril Connolly and the "Horizon gang" were as central to the Forties

as the "Auden group" was to the Thirties, and the Bloomsbury set to the years before the Great War. All encapsulated the sensibilities of their times, though none perhaps had quite as much influence as Connolly, who edited *Horizon*, that parish magazine of the English-speaking intelligentsia, from its foundation in December 1939 until its demise in 1949.

It was true that he was well served in the early days by his co-editor, Stephen Spender, and regularly bailed out by Peter Watson, a wealthy art collector. In addition there was a succession of wives and girlfriends ever ready to wield scissors and paste. But, as Sheldon

PETER STRAUB MYSTERY

SOME SECRETS ARE BEST LEFT BURIED...

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Adrian George

Oliver Goulden enjoys an entertaining medieval debate on the usefulness of music

The renewal of interest in early music has led to the transcription and performance of many forgotten works. This has naturally required the solution of various technical questions. Now a celebrated practitioner, the director of Gothic Voices, has been prompted to ask and answer many other questions, social, economic, political, theological... Christopher Page, a Cambridge don, working in both Middle English literature and early music (*Voices and Instruments of the Middle Ages*, 1987), has written a book on musical life and ideas, 1100-1300, which is scholarly, entertaining, well-written, and far too important to be left to academic specialists.

Page's new book, *The Owl and the Nightingale*, takes its title from an anonymous English poem of c.1200, in which the two birds debate the usefulness and the proper character of music. For the owl, who represents the tradition of Christian asceticism, music's role is to make fearful supplication for God's mercy on sinful man; its appropriate mode is plainchant. The nightingale, on the other hand, is a courtly bird; she believes that man is born for the joys of heaven, and sees no reason not to rejoice in this life too; she stands for the delights (and the extravagances) of the new polyphony, as well as the secular songs of the troubadours and trouvères. Page seeks to explain a change of attitudes, which is summed up in the contrast between the much quoted pronouncement of Honorius of Autun to the effect that a minstrel could have no hope of heaven, and the opinion of Albertus Magnus that singing and dancing may be useful to the state. Seven chapters explore every

Sing a song of scholarship



United in timeless accord: 13th-century dancers and musicians join in a carole or public dance

THE OWL AND THE NIGHTINGALE
By Christopher Page
Dent, £20

type of musical activity known to exist at the period, and the attitudes toward them of nobles, preachers, confessors and theologians. The quantity of reading required for such research is enormous, and no one could hope to search through it all. Page has carried out a series of

archaeological digs. Some of his finds are rich and coherent; in other areas his excavations have turned up isolated scraps of evidence about which only speculation is

possible. But Page is a wizard with the evidence, and the reader will enjoy watching him at work.

The seventh chapter is one of the most remarkable. It deals with a group of people who remained faithful to the old ascetic attitude to music: the Cistercian monks. Page examines the possible explanations for their propensity to see or hear demons even, and especially, while engaged in singing the liturgy. Beyond the obvious psychological and physiological causes that led them to attribute, for instance, a coughing fit or hoarseness of voice to the malice of Satan, he points to their conviction that, by their austere life and their daily performance of the plainchant liturgy, they were in the forefront of the battle against the devil.

The final chapter attempts to answer political questions: why did this new toleration of some musical activities coexist among the clerical literati with a neurotic fear of subversion, which led to systematic persecution of lepers, Jews, and heretics, and the attempt to extend clerical control of the laity through obligatory annual confession? Page's convincing explanation is that these opposing trends sprang from the same cause, a preoccupation with the idea of the state propagated by this group of literati. They were convinced that man in his fallen condition must be a social and political animal, and that the state is the natural way for this necessity to be met. The state must, therefore, not be subverted, and it may be strengthened by the useful activities of entertainers. Making a concession to man's weakness, they mitigate the sadness of human life with joyful sounds, and reconcile man with life's present trials by singing of disorders of earlier days.

Fall of the house of Morgan

Kate Mortimer

THE PRIDE OF LUCIFER

By Dominic Hobson
Hamish Hamilton, £16.99

Reading the story of Morgan Grenfell's last three years but one, one cannot help being faintly surprised that the bank did not go broke. Dominic Hobson scatters figures around, but does not analyse the aggregate effect of the large sums the bank was throwing not only at shares of takeover bidders and their targets, but also at new businesses and new markets, in many of which it was making a loss. It is hard not to feel that had it been selling anything less nebulous than financial services, it would by 1988 have been going the way of any other firm which grows too fast and retains old-fashioned styles of non-management which cannot cope.

The Morgan family founders seem to have been less cocksure with their capital. Admittedly the firm nearly failed in 1857 - being over-exposed to railway loans - but J.P. Morgan characteristically made his first turn using his employer's credit to trade office for his own account. The first 90 pages of this book tell the story of the Morgans as much as of Morgan Grenfell (the shadowy Grenfell gave his name to the firm in 1910), and the doings of J.S. and J.P. Morgan are as interestingly recounted as these larger-than-life figures deserve. In London, the Morgans regarded the Barings as their great rivals, while sharing with them rampant anti-Semitism and a taste for English land and titled connexions.

Morgan Grenfell emerged from the shadow of the Americans, after the Glass Steagall Act necessitated a loosening of the banking firm's ties with its securities-dealing associate. Things seem to have been quiet until the 1960s, although Hobson reminds us that the denationalizations of the 1950s had almost as much hype as those of the 1980s, and that Morgan Grenfell played a key but not very successful role in the former.

Morgan Grenfell started slowly in the great takeover wars of the 1960s but then accelerated to the point where its activities helped bring the Takeover Code into existence, and then to necessitate its continual refinement. Hobson's account of the Stock Exchange's cooperation of Cazenove and the Bank of England's trenchant carpeting of Morgan Grenfell during the 1968 battle for Gallahers is a depressing reminder that *plus ça change*. The second half of the book contains a well-placed and readable account of the Guinness affair, and the acknowledged depositions of Hamish Hamilton's lawyers do not disturb the flow.

For, in fact, the Guinness affair is only a lengthy illustration supporting the author's main purpose. His attack on Christopher Reeves (a "personnel director") and his "public school bullyboys", who scorned university in favour of entrepreneurial moneymaking, is swinging and rings pretty true. The lack of strategy towards Big Bang, and the approach to the Euromarkets and to overseas expansion, are all paraded as evidence that Morgan Grenfell was heading for trouble even while profits, for a time, grew explosively.

Tropical sleuthing

HORROR

Anne Billson

MYSTERY

By Peter Straub
Grafton, £13.95

this. It is not in the world of the 18th-century Italian *castrati*, and follows the fortunes of Tonio, a high-born Venetian who is forcibly castrated by a scheming brother, and whose plans for revenge are complicated when he becomes celebrated as a boy soprano, first in Naples and later in Rome. Rice delivers her familiar brand of homoeroticism and historical detail - the descriptions of voice-training are fascinating - and, while the beginning of the book is a bit of a plod, it all moves to a satisfying climax.

• The Kill Rite, by David J. Schow (Macdonald, £12.95). Schow is best known as a writer of short horror stories, but his first novel hovers somewhere between pulp-nasty and thriller. It is a clodding good read about a Los Angeles advertising executive, who is spurred by the accidental death of his daughter to wreak revenge on the heavy-metal rock band whose gig she was attending at the time. Schow displays an insider's knowledge of head-banging habits, without ever slipping into fanzine territory. His deeply flawed hero is a headcase and a half, whose route to the inevitable show-down with the equally flawed lead singer of the band packs a fistful of killer twists - one of which left me gasping for air.

• Raha, by Stephen Gallagher (New English Library, £12.95, paperback £7.95). Gallagher, who has been labelled a "cult phenomenon" (sic) by his publishers, has garnered himself a horror reputation thanks to the demon serial killer in *Valley of Lights*. Since then, he has been refining his own

brand of psycho-thriller, tapping into the heart of British lowlife with a disconcerting knack for charting mental disintegration and a razor-sharp sense of place. The places in *Raha* are motorway service stations and London as seen through the eyes of Lucy, a runaway teenager searching for the hit-and-run driver who killed her sister. The plot is not the most important thing here (though anyone who values it should skip the dust-jacket blurb), but Gallagher's descriptions - of low-rent hotels, the Embankment after dark, and the sleazy nightclub where Lucy finds work - pin down London's underbelly with deadly accuracy. The *noir-ish* mood is so intense that it comes as a shock when the writer suddenly starts wrapping up the story; one could have done with him being slightly less businesslike about it.

• The Axeman Cometh, by John Farris (Hodder & Stoughton, £11.95). This is prefaced by an extraordinary author's note, in which Farris claims that the novel "was planned to be read as a long story, at one sitting", and that anyone unable to spare the time should read something else. This latter suggestion was indeed a tempting proposition, as I have not been enamoured of Farris's work in the past (even if he did provide Brian de Palma with the source material for *The Fury*), but I struggled through its 159 pages (priced at only £1 less than Anne Rice's 529) in three sessions, as it happens; does Farris seriously think that readers have unlimited leisure time on their hands? Those who haven't can skip this book with impunity; the story of a woman trapped in a lift, and trying to exorcise memories of the night when her family was messily murdered, contrives to be pretentious and incomprehensible at the same time, though - with its animated killer-pigs and guest appearance by Ernest Hemingway - it could scarcely be described as predictable.

The ruin of the writing classes

Brian Morton

THE THIRSTY MUSE:
Alcohol and the American writer

By Tom Dardis

Abacus, £3.99

JOHN BARLEYCORN:
"Alcoholic Memoirs"



By Jack London
Edited and introduced by
John Sutherland
Oxford, £4.95

Scott Fitzgerald once wrote that there are "no second acts" in American lives. Great beginnings, but something goes wrong in the interval (and Fitzgerald spent much of his last years pretending he didn't know what that something was).

Tom Dardis seems to think that an average honest literary history of America should read like the admission book at a Betty Ford clinic: "A majority of the main figures in American writing this century have been alcoholics." If this is true - and Dardis produces an astonishing roster of literary dipsonomias - then it seems essential to know why.

Unfortunately, *The Thirsty Muse* is little more than a bartender's slate for Hemingway, Faulkner and Fitzgerald, with a rather complacently upbeat final chapter to the effect that Eugene O'Neill, for one, did his best work once he got off the muse.

Dardis believes that a mixture of squeamishness and thrill to a version of Hemingway's belief that "good writers are drinking writers" has meant that American literary biography too often treats alcoholism as something wild, unproblematic and controlled. The facts are patently otherwise. Fitzgerald's swollen heart gave out at 44. Hemingway and Faulkner managed to lurch and burp on through second and third acts of increasingly helpless drinking, but neither man wrote anything worth a damn after his early forties.

In 1912 Jack London was the golden boy of American letters, tough and handsome, almost invincibly successful. John Sutherland links the contemporary impact of *John Barleycorn* to the revelation that Rock Hudson was gay and was dying of Aids. London scholars have been inclined to treat it as a piece of fiction. The fact is that London published it precisely because it was non-fiction (and thus exempt from a non-indexed-linked fiction deal he had struck with *Cosmopolitan*).

It is an extraordinary work, boastful and denying by turns,

suspiciously protesting in its detestation of alcohol, but also wholeheartedly committed to the machismo of hard drinking. In a remarkable early scene the 14-year-old London tumbles drunkenly into the mud and barnacles of San Francisco Bay, covered in blood and slime, he is reborn a man, and a drinking man.

Towards the end of these alcoholic memoirs London insists unconvincingly, "mine is no tale of a reformed drunkard". Nevertheless the alternation of heightened memory and amnesia seems typical of alcoholism. London's explanation is that he is not a drunkard, but a man of imagination, and as such is bound to what he calls the "White Logic". This phrase, all the more chilling for never being fully explained, seems to describe that hung-over, befuddled glimmer of something more, something beyond, that may be the fate of drinking men who also write.

Do
def
rea

id spite, vindictiveness and the leading capacity to forgive. And air duplicity is most intensely pressed in their eroticism. It is among the muddled compulsions of sex that Soguro finally sees his way. In desperation, he consults a psychoanalyst. But scientific psychoanalysis, born out of a cognition that the irrationalities the libido might govern our lives, has long since given up. The expert has no advice to offer. We come to the conclusion that man beings can't be explained in truly logical terms. They are truly zarte... Anything can happen with people. The insulating effects of translation contribute to a sense of cool detachment in the writing which light seem to sit oddly with its theme. But the cultivated and offy analytical distance of Endo's riling is part of its power to sturb. If spiritual assurance has fallen art, and rationality cannot take place, only a precariously controlled artifice lies between us and archy. It is a cheerless prospect, at it is not confined to the East. If we're looking for instruction in the assuringly alien ways of Japan, is not the book for you.

at war

monstrates, *Horizon* always retained Connolly's show. Frascible, spionated and ultimately no ore than eternally "promising", used his personal "Comment" hums as diaries - and not frequently as declarations of war for the greater part of the decade. In turn Sheldon has used them (and much else) to assemble a mal portrait of the editor-at-man make Connolly's widow, Bara Skelton, whose recently-publied autobiographies, *Tears* *fore Bedtime* and *Weep No More*, spit the husband-as-monster. But why where it directly impinges on a running of the magazine does directly address "the complex amia of Connolly's emotional e". This, together with his rather five treatment of Watson's ushes with the London homo-nual *semi-monde*, occasionally was the reader with a feeling of *certained hagiography; but the role remains an engaging account 'a fascinating man at the centre of fast-changing literary world.

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THE ARTS

The purring tiger and sleepy kitten

ROCK

David Toop

Dionne Warwick
London Palladium

Only a tiny percentage of popular singers have survived the last three decades with their dignity as well as their careers intact. Dionne Warwick is perhaps the most admirable of them all. From 1964 until 1970, her voice was the perfect instrument for a remarkable run of hit songs composed by Burt Bacharach and lyricist Hal David.

Even during a lean period in the Seventies she recorded classic, forgotten albums like *Track of the Cat*, and more recently has sailed back into favour in the company of Jeffrey Osborne. Nobody should begrudge her continuing success, but there is a justifiable dread with American performers that their back-catalogue will be dismissed in a 10-minute medley, leaving the way clear for new releases.

To some extent, the unwanted scenario unfolded. "Walk On By" was followed in short succession by "I Say A Little Prayer", "Do You Know The Way To San Jose?" and a beautiful rendition of "Alfie", enriched by the dramatic pause, and subtle, fluent phrasing.

No complaints about the treatment of any of these iconic songs. Moments from the Sixties pop, of course, since Warwick always approaches songs with a love and respect for the technical demands,

the emotional content and their significance in the minds of an audience. The problem was that there were just too many hits in close succession. Many of my own favourites were excluded, but of course the definitive versions of classics such as "Anyone who had a Heart" exist on record.

Her patter between songs was diffident, sometimes suffering from a minor attack of Californian schmaltz, but the music was approached with a grace and understatement which distracted attention from the easy listening component of her later material. From this point of view, "Heartbreaker", "Deja Vu", "I'll Never Love This Way Again" and even the rather banal "Love Power" transcended the associations of supper-club music.

Warwick's great ability, from the beginning of her career, was to cutie the substance from a lyric with gentle, almost imperceptible pressure. To see it achieved on stage is a rare pleasure.

You could say that this was a highly strung performance, but if you did you would be referring to a side-kick violinist and a full-size chamber orchestra that made its entrée in the encore. Rock shows do not come any more low-key than this one. Tanita Tikaram may be at that rebellious age, but beneath a schoolgirl exterior beats an ancient heart. She even named her pre-recorded album after it.

As is clear from her current world tour, the follow-up album is not so aptly titled. Having collected some catchy melodies on *Ancient Heart*, Tikaram has become something of a one-chord wonder on *The Sweet Keeper*. As she performed songs from it one wondered whether it might not more honestly be called *The Deep Sleeper*.

With her lapidary deep voice clinging to a monotone as long as it possibly could in songs such as "Consider The Rain", one had time to consider other things too, in particular how soon it would be before she could be classified under "Most rapturously received dirge". Even in up-tempo numbers like "World Outside Your Window" and "Twist in My Solitude", Tikaram had her foot flat on the brake pedal.

Tikaram's speaking voice is

Jasper Rees

Tanita Tikaram
Hammersmith Odeon

blatantly at odds with her almost baritone singing voice. Linking song to song with the gaudiness of a tongue-tied ingénue, she gushingly described each member of her five-person band as "wonderful", which seemed fair enough, until she used the same adjective on "A Town Called Basingstoke", where she grew up.

However, when one compares her delivery of the older songs written in Basingstoke ("Good Tradition", "Cathedral Song") with the newer ones written in hotel rooms ("Deliver Me", "Never Known"), one suddenly changes one's tune and yawns for the mews of Hampshire. Apart from a beautifully pared-down rendition of "It All Came Back Today", the best non-Basingstoke ballad was a cover of Leonard Cohen's "And No Cure For Love".

But after the Kreisler String Orchestra had augmented "Little Sister Leaving Town" and "Harm in your Hands" and Tikaram had left the stage, one wanted to whisk her to Basingstoke, to renew some home-town inspiration.



Tanita: lulling audiences with monotonous tones

Amazing tall storeys

TELEVISION
Sheridan Morley

It will in time require the services of *The Times*' literary editor Philip Howard and several lexicographers to do full justice to *Whicker's World* (BBC 1).

Last night, the mighty Alas was continuing his tour of Hong Kong high life. Discovering "double faiths in a doomed colony of dual nationality", not to mention "a pervasive air of contented avarice" and "a multiplicity of divinities", Whicker came across a local millionaire whose great grandfather had a seven-storey house, on each floor of which he would keep a different wife, ascending one floor per day until finally collapsing on the roof on Sundays.

Sadly we soon had to leave him behind, and head off to other corners of "a frenzied square mile where the party is over for a doomed people", although big business and the multi-million-dollar auctions still appear to be carrying on much as before.

Whicker's linking narrative is still made up of old *Nes Chrochle* headlines and the kind of language nowadays only elsewhere spoken on tape by airline hostesses while your plane has been delayed and your baggage lost. It is simultaneously reassuring and meaningless, like an assembly of the world's greatest clichés on special offer to nostalgia collectors.

Some of your treasures have been taken from Chinese graves, said Alan last night to an auctioneer. The unkind word might have been "stolen". If it was true, neither Alan nor his guest looked more than fractionally disconcerted; luckily it was almost time for another lunch.

You have married Susannah who is gorgeous, said Alan reassuringly to his host. Why did you not marry a Gloucestershire Sloane? I do not think, said the Chinese millionaire, that my parents would have liked it.

Master of the trolls

Heather Neill meets

Nick Ormerod, who

has designed the

National's *Peer Gynt*

A warning notice read "Troll Alley" in the corridor outside Rehearsal Room 2, part of the Royal National Theatre's backstage maze which might have been designed to shelter the Securitate. But inside there was nothing more sinister than a large cast energetically tackling the difficulties inherent in the wedding scene of *Peer Gynt*.

This, explained the director, Declan Donnellan, was the last phase of rehearsal, a matter of "telling people where to stand". But, even now, the odd line was being re-allocated. The rejection of the groom by Ingrid the bride became funnier every minute. "It's the Flinstones," declared Donnellan, to get the right mood. Musicians played. Ingrid disappeared noisily (some 14 times), slamming the door of a sturdy wooden hut behind her.

The hut dominated the rehearsal room and it dominates the Olivier stage. Solid, panelled, its roof sweeping almost to the floor, it represents the central image of Nick Ormerod's set. It is several different homes, a hill, a sand dune, a ship's deck.

Peer Gynt moves from Norwegian mountains to troll world beneath, from the Sahara to a ship in a storm. It was written to be read, rather than performed, so

Ibsen makes no concessions to staging. The hut/hill is Ormerod's solution to the rapidly changing scenes. "It is in the actors' control; they take the play along."

In Ormerod's conception of the first scenes, Norway is "troll", the set bristling with authentic tools and hints of a bustling peasant society. Its colours are muted: grey, blue and brown. "It is mundane, to be escaped from." When the trolls engulf Peer, they are human to the waist, but wear tails, "as if," says Ormerod, "troll life was there, underground, underneath the real Norway."

Ormerod has researched the Norwegian background carefully, and included a touch of folk decoration, a kind of swirly painting known as "rosemaaling". A sphinx could not be omitted from the Egyptian sequence, even though it appears for only a matter of minutes. The real and fantastic are brought neatly together when the horse on which Peer and Anita gallop across the desert is a life-size version of the wooden,

wheeled, barrel-chested toy in Peer's home in an earlier scene.

Ormerod has worked closely with Donnellan on numerous Cheek by Jowl productions — they are co-artistic directors — and, last year, on *Fuente Ovejuna* at the National. They met at Cambridge, where Ormerod read law before studying design at the Wimbledon School of Art. His role is more than that of the conventional designer; he takes part in all discussions.

He shares Donnellan's belief in encouraging actors to seek their own solutions. Then order is imposed on these by director and designer. Thus, the cast found themselves making the pig on which Peer rides. A huge green, fibre-glass pig's head, complete with hairy ears, is carried by actors who become its "body". But some decisions had to be made in advance: the sphinx, and a hut substantial enough to be a holiday chalet, took some building.

"A designer's work should be fairly invisible, obedient to the play," says Ormerod. "Its effects build up with the play. I'm suspicious of the kind of set which elicits applause when the curtain opens. But *coups de théâtre*? The more the merrier!"

Peer Gynt opens at the Olivier Theatre next Wednesday



In the hall of the Mountain King: Nick Ormerod, with his creations

Send in the hounds

RADIO

Martin Cropper

Hippies congregating for festive purposes make a tremendous amount of noise, even on occasion out-barking their many dogs. This behaviour is undoubtedly fed by the folk-memory of being chased from Stonehenge at the point of a police Alsatian: the object of terror is defined through its incorporation into the tribal vocabulary.

As *Soundtrack* (Radio 4, Thursday) demonstrated, that vocabulary is by no means excessive. People who put such an effort into venerating the ineffable tend not to make the most articulate interviewees, particularly in the middle of a cold autumn equinox on Salisbury Plain.

The typical punchline of an anecdote from the alternative life is constabulary arrest. Take the case of Wally Hope, the founder of the Stonehenge Festival, who the following year "very mysteriously disappeared", only to resurface in a mental hospital. Having died of an overdose, he was cremated. Years later at Stonehenge a young man burst through the police lines and was arrested in the middle of the stones, what he imagined were Hope's ashes. Imagine his surprise when the bag in his hand disgorged not ash but pieces of a jigsaw puzzle. He was arrested.

More than one male voice seemed to have been cooched by Neil from *The Young Ones*, while the communal howling uncannily suggested the National Theatre rehearsing a scene of medieval vivacity. That incessant drilling sound backstage was in fact a police helicopter squinting in the night sky above the sacred circles and sniffing for certain substances.

Their colleagues in *Interpol*, meanwhile, find that 60 per cent of the messages they relay to their 150 member countries relate to the drug trade. By way of light relief, the reporter on *Interpol: Behind The Myth* (World Service, Monday) had his surname keyed into the database at the Lyon headquarters, and out popped a convicted cannabis smuggler.

Trapped in Moscow's rat-holes

THEATRE
Benedict NightingaleExchange
Vaudeville

when the sofa becomes a bed. Since Viktor's family are a serenely high-minded lot, and Lena's are defiantly acquisitive, their gatherings tend to resemble, as Michael Frayn's vivid translation puts it, "a water polo match in which the players kick each other under the surface". Even the mortal sickness of Viktor's mother does not prevent their polariza-



And so to bed: Martin Jarvis and Rosalind Ayres grin and bare it

tion into what, in Patrick Sandford's production, look like two lines of soldiers balefully facing each other.

Andrew Masley's tenure has pumped vigour into this ripe Edwardian theatre, with one regional premiere already this season and another following the current production.

Russian drama features strongly: last year David Mamet's version of *The Cherry Orchard* and Celine's *A Man With No Name*, and now another Mametish Chekhov, set against a wall of rusting corrugated sheet that soars above a long table loaded with the dishes of a dozen uncleaned meals. Dusty volumes litter the foreground beside a dying cuckoo clock and the embers of a burning log.

Ho-hum, one thinks as the details of this wasteland setting (by Michael Spencer) sink in. A "concept" production. The Masley/Spencer view of the play never lets you forget that this provincial Russia is a society in terminal rot.

Jeremy Kingston

Uncle Vanya
Harrowgate

A generation ago, Astrov's distraught agonising commiseration and a sudden poppinism was taken as a comment on the Yankist days, so it is a nice irony that today we can see nothing has changed for the better since Chekhov's day.

From his excellent company, Masley has drawn performances that show, above anything else, the characters' agonised familiarity. They know each others' habits until they could scream. This is particularly true of Jonathan Burn's clowish Vanya, shambling like an old performing bear, mourning his lost youth in groans reminiscent of Patsy Stonefield.

Alexandra Mathie's Sonya

little ratholes can be exchanged for one large one. The bulk of the play consists of the internal erosion of Viktor himself, who finally prepares to profit from his mother's unhappy death.

Cluttered the play must look: confusing it is not. No doubt its astonishing current success in Moscow owes much to its entertaining frankness about the Soviet black economy. But the final focus is on compromise, a pretty international subject.

Rosalind Ayres's Lena is no villainess, but a woman tutored by life to believe it is right to be pushy, and Martin Jarvis's Viktor is certainly no straightforward hero. He smiles vague, glum, mildly stricken smiles, and his body language, too, seems helpless and flabby. Passivity, he suggests, can be a compromise too.

Italian sounds turned sweet

CONCERTS

Stephen Pettitt

Gabrieli Consort
Wigmore Hall

As the spontaneity of the music-making improved, however, such indulgences fell away. The tenor, Charles Daniels, began the process by attacking head-on Carissimi's extraordinary "Apritevi inferni", a dramatic, virtuosic piece which leaps around a range of more than two octaves. It would have been even better had less been made of the music's technical difficulty and, by means of wider tonal variety, more attention paid to the sentiments it portrays.

The same composer's gentle "Rimanti in pace homai", sung sweetly by Janet Corwell and Angus Smith, made an appealing contrast, though the effect of

another duet, Mazzocchi's moving lament "Fiangete occhi, piangete" (Tessa Bonner and Susan Hemington Jones), was somewhat compromised by Hemington Jones's alarming tendency to sing sharp.

Such irritations were rendered irrelevant, however, in the face of the fine performance of Carissimi's celebrated oratorio "Jephthah", which ended the concert. Here the group were united by this composer's ability to convey the breadth of human feeling as joy turns to despair.

Janet Corwell, in particular, made a magnificent contribution as the daughter, delivering her final lament with absolute control, even at this slow pace and in the exquisitely hushed dynamics of her closing phrases. The singers responded aptly in the final chorus, making the utmost of Carissimi's powerful, clashing harmonies — sending a shiver down the spine as they stretched the music as far as it could possibly go.

flicted the Prokofiev: an inability to turn expressive corners fast enough, together with a certain lack of distinction between foreground and background. But there were many passages, too, that displayed true finesse, especially in the slower meditative section.

Chopin's Andante Spianato and Grande Polonaise, Op 22, brought the best playing of all. The work was one of Chopin's last big display pieces, and his extrovert, exhibitionistic utterances are juxtaposed, unusually but tellingly, with the private, introspective mode that was to become familiar in the later years of his life. It was Miss Zaritzkaya's achievement that she was able to mediate effectively between those dual

Barry Millington

Irina Zaritzkaya
Purcell Room

sions *Fugitives*, Op 22, which lacked both the rhythmic bite and the acidic flavour needed to bring these sharply characterized miniatures to life. More successful was Miss Zaritzkaya's playing of Kabalevsky's Sonata No 3 in F, whose amiable neo-classicism, though occasionally redolent of Prokofiev, seemed to suit her better.

Chopin's Scherzo No 2 in B flat minor suffered from something of the shortcomings that had af-

The Russian pianist Irina Zaritzkaya already has a devoted following and a large number of pupils in this country, and they turned out in force for her Purcell Room recital on Thursday night. Not all were able to obtain a ticket; those who did, gave her a rapturous reception for her playing of music by three compatriots in the first half — Scriabin, Prokofiev and Kabalevsky — followed by a Chopin selection in the second. In truth, the playing, though never less than impressive in both technical and stylistic terms, was not of uniform quality.

The opening Sonata Fantasia by Scriabin elicited the warm-toned, passionately surging eloquence that is his hallmark. Less happy was the group of Prokofiev Pi-

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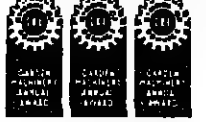
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SHOPPING

The future is looking great

Nicole Swengley reports on the advances being made in home entertainment via television

Television is turning homes into mini cinemas, and, with video recorders, cameras, teletext, computers and satellite cable services all vying for space on our screens, it is hardly surprising that the sets themselves have changed to cope with the new technology. Anyone with a 10-year-old set will find that almost everything has changed. Stereo sound has been with us since 1981, and the new types of tubes built into advanced sets since the mid-Eighties mean that pictures stay sharp right into the corners. Since 1986, television has also been the medium for rapid information transmission via computer modem/telephone. More changes are on the way. With the introduction of Nicam broadcast transmissions last year, the stereo sound quality of sets equipped to receive it has greatly improved. And widescreen, cinema-calibre pictures will match sound in terms of performance when High Definition Television (HDTV) arrives later in the decade. Indications are that by the late Nineties we will follow the American lead, with built-in television sets becoming the centre of a comprehensive home entertainment system.

So far, Bang & Olufsen's Beolink system offers the most progressive advances in this respect. But, by the end of the decade, a "smart" system will pre-set linked equipment: such as television screens, videos, radios, lighting, central heating, security systems, alarm clocks, microwave ovens and cookers. Sony says it is already developing the software.

In the meantime, television screens are growing in size. In 1987 the average screen size was 21in, or 24in at the most. Anything larger, such as the huge 37in Mitsubishi in their chest-of-drawers-size cabinets, seemed to be of curiosity value only. But, over the past year, 27in and 28in models have become more popular. The introduction of Sky Television, and Nicam transmissions by the BBC and ITV networks, may be partly responsible for this growth in screen size. Nicam-equipped television sets can decode the digital transmissions which can then be played through the set's own speakers, if they are good enough, or through separate hi-fi speakers. The quality of this sound has been likened to that of compact discs.

Among the most sophisticated, and most expensive, of these new "home cinema" television sets are those by Loewe, the leading West German manufacturer, which is partly owned by BMW. Loewe's Art 95 Set is its top model, equipped with integral tuner for direct satellite reception and Nicam stereo sound. With a big, 37in screen it is capable of reproducing pictures 70 per cent larger than standard television sets. A video recorder tucks out of

sight behind a front cover while a 70-watt stereo hi-fi system is coupled with two-way integral speakers for exceptional sound quality.

This "intelligent" television set has an automatic switch-off device, which operates after transmission close-down, and an electronic lock, which can be used to stop children watching certain programmes. Because of its giant size (90cm wide x 107cm high x 68.5cm deep) and weight (about 67lb), the set comes on wheels for easier manoeuvrability; even so it is unwieldy and extremely heavy. This state-of-the-art set costs £2,995 at LeSet, which also offers the Loewe Art 82, £1,995, and Art 1, £995, at its outlets at 115 Fulham Road, London SW3 (01-581 3676) and Whiteleys of Bayswater, London W2 (01-229 4028).

Also on sale is a 37in model by Grundig, £2,800, Nordmende's 29in Prestige, £1,295, and a 37in set by Mitsubishi. The shop also stocks the Sony 34in, a rather rare model, which has a top quality sound system and incorporates the technology to double the amount of scans per second to reduce picture flicker.

With prices like these, most shoppers seek some reassurance before they splash out on

a new television set. So, last autumn, Bang & Olufsen opened its first UK showroom at 56 South Molton Street, London W1 (01-355 1285), to demonstrate its range, along with a studio which shows how B&O equipment can be linked together by remote control, allowing users the freedom to enjoy it throughout the home.

This Beolink system covers four rooms as standard, but can be expanded to another 12. All that is needed in each room is a pair of speakers, a link unit, a relay unit and the remote control.

At the heart of the system is a wall-mounted link unit, a little smaller than an audio cassette, which is sensitive to infra-red rays from the remote control and passes instructions to the central system; the panel also accepts commands by touch. Costs for this futuristic system start at £1,175, plus installation, providing you already have B&O equipment which can be linked up. Costs climb with tailor-made requirements and the purchase of any of B&O's new hi-fi or audio equipment to incorporate into the system. Two of B&O's large-screen television sets,

both of which have Nicam and computer-controlled teletext, merit special mention.

The Beovision 28in MX 5000, £1,085, stands on an optional automatic turntable, £269, which whizzes round to face the direction of the remote controller.

The LX 5000 500, £1,199, B&O's latest model, offers video programming via teletext using the remote control handset—the simplest way yet devised to pre-set a video recorder.

As far as set design is concerned, prizes have already been awarded to Finlux by the Finnish Arts & Crafts Society. Certainly the Finlux Sky Design 29in Vario has one of the more attractive television set profiles. And, thanks to its colour separation circuit, screen colours are particularly sharp and do not inter-mix as they can on some other sets.

In addition to the normal two-way bass loudspeakers, the set can be installed, if required, with two separate, two-way video-based loudspeakers to match the quality of sound reproduction to personal tastes. It costs £949 (optional speakers, £66, and stand, £139) from Finlux at 87 Jermyn Street, London SW1 (01-930 6487).



Bang & Olufsen LX 5000 500, £1,199 from B&O's London showroom



Finlux Sky Design 29in Vario, £949 from Finlux's Jermyn Street showroom

Sony 34in KV D3412, £2,500 from LeSet

TV-SPEAK

- **Digital technology:** Signals are converted into numbers so that picture and sound information can be calculated, stored and reproduced without loss of quality. Picture quality is continually monitored and automatically adjusted, remaining constant throughout the television set's life.
- **Nicam (Near Instantaneous Compounding audio multiplexing):** Television sets equipped with this offer near-CD quality sound. Stereo sound means that foreign films transmitted in two-channel sound can be heard in the original or the dubbed version. Some sets even have separate speakers.
- **FST (Flatter, squarer tube):** This extends the picture into the corners of the screen, offering a wider viewing angle. Picture distortion is reduced and reflections are cut out.
- **Multi-standard set:** The different colour transmission systems broadcast from other countries by aerial or cable can be accepted by the television set.
- **Digital link:** This allows the coupling of a television video unit to a second television set, and the running of all video recorder functions on the remote control from a second television set located in a different room.
- **Euro-socket:** The 21-pin Euro-socket, also known as a Scart socket, is the latest way to connect a video recorder, camera, computer and so on to the television set.
- **Picture in picture:** Other programmes superimposed in a corner of the television screen, allowing the viewer to flick through the different channels while watching a particular programme or to check what's on television while watching a video film.
- **On screen display:** This shows all the remote control commands for the television in writing at the base of the screen, or elsewhere, without interfering with the picture.
- **Integrated video housing:** Some television sets have room to store the video recorder out of sight yet still allow operation by the remote control handset.
- **Automatic switch-off:** Devices which turn off the television set five minutes after transmission close-down.
- **Individually adjustable control:** Different models of television sets vary in their basic colour settings, so it's best to choose a set whose colour can be adjusted by remote control to suit your personal taste.
- **Super-VHS (S-VHS) socket:** The latest S-VHS video recorders call for a compatible television set; the newest sets have special S-VHS sockets for connecting the equipment together.

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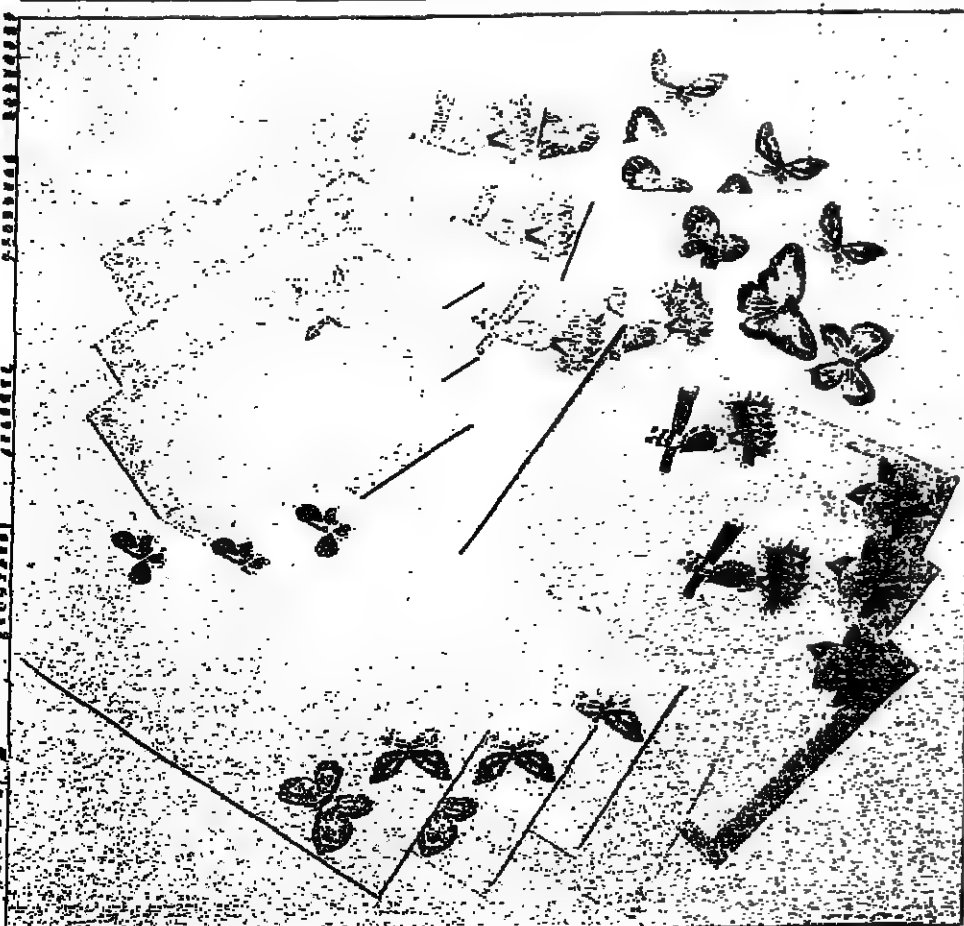
The latest sunny accessory to emerge from Ken Done's prolific Australian studio is a range of attractive writing paper (left) decorated with parrots, tropical flowers, stars and other folk motifs.

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It will be available from April at Penhaligon's, 41 Wellington Street, London WC2 (01-836 2150) and branches at Bath, York and Chester.

Nicole Swengley



THE WEEK AHEAD



Academic study: Miss Negreanu

GALLERIES

DAVID LEE

MARIO ROSSI: New canvases making use of iron rust and gold dust by one of the highly praised Glasgow School of young artists. Anderson's Day Fine Art, London W11 (01-221 7592). From Thurs.

TRANSFORMATION: THE LEGACY OF AUTHORITY: Works by 21 artists from Moscow selected by the Artists' Union and evoking the radical stylistic changes of the Glasnost period. Maclaurin Art Gallery, Alloway, Ayr (0292-43708). From today.

LANDSCAPES FROM A HIGH LATITUDE: The first exhibition in the country of Icelandic art from 1909-1989. Concourse Gallery, Barbican Centre, London EC2 (01-638 4141). From Tues.

Portrait of Miss Serinka Negreanu (above), of 1932, is included in a new exhibition of paintings and drawings by English artist Thomas Esmond Lowinsky (1892-1947). A superb academic study of a hired Romanian model, it shows the artist to be a conscientious classical draughtsman. It comes as no surprise to learn that Lowinsky was trained at the Slade School by that legendary martinet of drawing classes, Henry Tonks. Much of Lowinsky's freedom as an artist derived from his substantial private means. He was a banker's son and married an even richer banker's daughter. But, being shy and modest owing to dyslexia, he never promoted his own work, which tended to be Biblical, medieval and mythological in subject, and Pre-Raphaelite in style. He was an old-fashioned admirer of well-crafted beautiful things and showed astute connoisseurial discernment in making his famous collection of British drawing. Artistically, he had nothing to prove so he could afford to be out of step with dominant fashions. And naturally his reputation has suffered as a result. An extensive survey of his work starts on Wednesday at the Tate Gallery, London SW1 (01-821 1313).

BROADCASTING

NIGHTINGALES: Robert Lindsay, David Threlkeld and James Ellis as three ineffectual night security guards in a new situation comedy by Paul (A Kind of Living) Main. Channel 4, Tues, 10-10.30pm.

HIGH HOPES (1988): Mike Leigh's second cinema film—a ruthless satire about Thatcher's Britain as reflected in three London families. Channel 4, Thurs, 9.30-11.30pm.

THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD: Ian Holm plays the choirmaster and optician-adjunct John Jasper in a five-part adaptation of Dickens's unfinished novel, plus Leon Garfield's "completion". Radio 4, Fri, 3-4pm.

PHOTOGRAPHY

KRYN TACONIS — PHOTOJOURNALIST: Exhibition of 35 years of the work of this Dutch born photographer, the earliest of which covers the German occupation of Amsterdam from 1944-45. Canada House Cultural Centre, London, SW1 (01-629 9492), Thurs-Mar 31.

OWEN LOGAN — MOROCCO: Refreshing travelogue style pictures by young Scottish photographer who retains an attachment to, and sympathy with, the humanity of his subject. Tom Hopkinson Room, The Photographers' Gallery, London, WC2 (01-831 1772). Until 31 Mar.

OPERA

HILARY FINCH

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: Colourful revival of Don Pasquale dominates the week with Eric Garrett taking over the title role on Thurs. (Paco Montalvo tonight and Tues. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1088).

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: Jonathan Miller's chic 1820s style *Mikado* is back tonight Tues and Fri. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-886 3161).

SCOTTISH OPERA: This afternoon revival of *Die Fledermaus*; on Wed the company's powerful double bill of *Bluebeard* and *Edipus Rex*. Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041-331 1234).



Promising: Adams (below) as Ochs

Gaitha Christie Limited will be sponsoring Welsh National Opera's new production of Strauss's *Der Rosenkavalier* which opens at the New Theatre, Cardiff this week. The opera, a story of love and the passing of youth, was a favourite of the author and the event commemorates the 100th anniversary of his birth. Following the tragically premature death of director Göran Järvelid, the production will be by Munich-born Wolfgang Weber. He is currently working on a new *Lohengrin* for the Vienna Staatsoper where he is head of productions, but he is something of a Strauss man himself with the Salzburg world premiere of *Esel Schellen* behind him as well as an *Elektra* for the Met. The casting of *Der Rosenkavalier* looks promising musically: Sir Charles Mackerras, who has already been at the helm for recent musically outstanding performances of Welsh National's *Salome* and *Die Frau ohne Schatten*, will be conducting. Rita Cullis is the Marchandin, Donald Adams is Baron Ochs, and it is worth listening out for Amanda Roocroft, a young singer already jealously sought by Covent Garden, who will be taking the role of Sophie. The production has been planned on a grand and traditional scale. Carl Friedrich Oberle's original designs will still be used, and the opera will be sung in English. New Theatre, Cardiff (0222 394844), from Thursday.



Disillusionment: embittered paraplegic Vietnam veteran Ron (Tom Cruise, right) meets up with a fellow victim, Charlie (Willem Dafoe, left)

Only 17 minutes of Oliver Stone's *Born on the Fourth of July* take place in Vietnam, but the dark shadow of those scenes dominates every moment of this dynamic two-and-a-half hour epic. Its hero is Ron Kovic, a veteran paralysed from the chest down, who co-wrote the screenplay (based on his own memoirs). Tom Cruise portrays him in a performance of great strength and range. At the start he is 10 years old, playing at war in the Long Island woods. Unthinking patriotism sends him to Vietnam as a Marine; in the confusion of war, he kills women, children, and one of his own men. Back home in a wheelchair, his unshared childhood disillusionment mounts. He leaves to fight through his rage in a grueling odyssey that reaches a climax at the 1972 Republican Convention in Miami, where he leads the demonstrating anti-war veterans. Kovic and Stone—a wounded Vietnam veteran himself—developed a script soon after the book's publication in 1976, though the project was stalled until Stone's success with *Platoon* put Vietnam back on the Hollywood agenda. As with *Apocalypse Now*, the Philippines provided the locations. Stone ensured that Cruise thoroughly trained for his ordeal: he underwent grueling combat exercises and learnt the pain of paralysis. Afterwards, in recognition of his bravery, Kovic gave Cruise his own Bronze Star. Empire (01-437 1234), from Friday, certificate 18.

CINEMA

GEOFF BROWN

GLORY (15): Compelling salute to the black soldiers who fought for the Union cause in the US Civil War, with Matthew Broderick as a callow colonel and Denzel Washington as a runaway slave under his command. Directed by Edward Zwick. Cannon Shafesbury Avenue (01-836 6279). From Fri.

DANCING THRU THE DARK (15): Warm-hearted comedy with music from Willy Russell, set in a Liverpool dance hall, where a bride, her fiancé and her old flame

rub shoulders. With Claire Hackett, Con O'Neill. Directed by Mike Ockrent. Warner West End (01-439 0761). From Fri.

TROP BELLE POUR TOI (18): Gérard Philipeau dithers between an aloof, beautiful wife and a plain, passionate mistress. Another assault on bourgeois life-styles from the variable Bertrand Blier; elegantly mounted, but trifling. Lumiere (01-836 0697). From Fri.

THE HOUSE OF BERNARDA ALBA (15): Strongly acted Spanish version of Lorca's play about a widowed Andalusian mother and her six daughters. Made in 1987; directed without much imagination by Mario Camus. Cannon Premiere (01-439 4470). From Fri.



Reggae success story: foreground (left to right) UB40's Robin Campbell, James Brown and Brian Travers

ROCK

DAVID SINCLAIR

JOHNNY CLEGG & SAVUKA: Seamless fusion of western rock and township jive. Ritz, Manchester (061 236 4356), tomorrow; then Bristol, Nottingham and Cambridge.

CHICAGO: Forgotten big band warhorse of the Woodstock age. Kings Hall, Belfast (0232 662225), Wed; Point, Dublin (0001 363633), Thurs.

CHRIS REA: Portly northerner back on the road to Hell. Showering Pavilion, Shepton Mallet (0748 82211), Thurs.

In the 11 years since UB40 set up in tandem with the overtly politicized 2-Tone stable of multi-racial dance bands, the Birmingham octet has become virtually the only British group (*pace* Aswad) to have made a long-term, commercially successful career out of playing reggae. In so doing they have matured into a dependable pillar of the pop-rock establishment with a high percentage of cover version hits such as "Red Red Wine", "Cherry Oh Baby", "Breakfast in Bed" and "I Got You Babe". Curiously, their last single, a version of Al Green's "Here I Am (Come and Take Me)" failed to reach the Top 40, but its host album, *Labour of Love II*, is still buoyant nearly three months after its release, and will doubtless return to the upper echelons of the chart when the group tours later this week. This will be the first sighting of UB40 since last year's 260-date world tour which took the band as far afield as Australia, Chile, Israel and Zimbabwe before culminating in a televised homecoming concert in June at Birmingham City FC. Still led by the brothers Ali and Rob Campbell, sons of the Scottish folk singer Ian Campbell, the band remains a remarkably tight-knit collective that has unobtrusively sold millions of records and amassed a huge international following. NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4133), Wednesday and Thursday; Whitley Bay Ice Rink, Newcastle (091 252 6240), Friday.

CONCERTS

TAKACS QUARTET: This fine ensemble's programme includes Haydn's Quartet K 464 and Brahms's Quartet Op 67. Barbican Centre, Silk St, London EC2 (01-838 8861), Mon.

LIADOV, LISZT: Liadov's colourful *Baba-Yaga*, *Klimora* and *The Enchanted Lake* receive a rare performance from the LPO under Valery Gergiev. Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-828 8800), Tues.

FROM MOSCOW: The Moscow soloists play Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No 6, Schnittke's Sonata for Violin and Strings (Oleg Kagan, soloist) and Schoenberg's *Verklärte Nacht*. Barbican Centre, Wed.

FROM TRINITY: Odaline de la Martinez conducts the Trinity College of Music Symphony Orchestra in Beethoven's Symphony No 7 and Sibelius's Symphony No 5. St John's, Smith Sq, London SW1 (01-222 1061), Thurs.

BRAMHUS CONTINUES: Gerhard Oppitz continues his series devoted to Brahms's complete original solo piano works with the Paganini Variations Op 35, Waltzes Op 39, Pieces Op 118 and 119. Wigmore Hall, 35 Wigmore St, London W1 (01-835 2141), Fri.

OZAWA/LSO: The LSO under Seiji Ozawa in Beethoven's Symphony No 4 and with Mstislav Rostropovich as soloist, Britten's Cello Symphony. Festival Hall, Fri, 7.30pm.

THEATRE

BRING DOWN THE SUN: World premiere of Chris Hawes's play, which links murders in Lancashire today and 300 years ago. Duke's Theatre, Lancaster (0524 66845), Opens Wed.

CROSS PURPOSE: Irina Brown directs Albert Camus's 1944 tragic updating of the *Prodigal Son* tale. Gate Theatre Club, 11 Pembroke Road, London W11 (01-229 0708), Opens Tues.

JOE TURNER'S COME AND GONE: Play by August Wilson, who wrote *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, about an ex-chain-gang prisoner in a 1911 Pittsburgh boarding house. Tricycle, 269 Kilburn High Road, London NW9 (01-328 1000), Previews from Thurs. Opens Mar 8.

MOSCOW SHADOWS: Philip Grout directs Harris W. Freedman's tale of Moscow widows and the black market. New End, Hampstead, London NW3 (01-734 0022), Previews Tues, Wed. Opens Thurs.

THE MUSIC OF ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER: Sarah Brightman stars in a tribute to her husband's successes. Palladium, Argyll Street, London W1 (01-437 1278), Mon-Sat.

NAE PROBLEM: 7.84 Company in a new play by Lynn Baines about prejudice against an Indian/Scottish family. Touring Scotland. Chandler Studio, RSAMD, Glasgow (Information: 041 331 2219), Opens Wed.

DANCE

ROYAL BALLET: A week in Birmingham with two big new productions. *La Bayadere* Mon-Wed; Kenneth MacMillan's *Prince of the Pagodas* Thurs-Sat Mar 3. Victoria Tunes and Sat. Birmingham Hippodrome (021-622 7488).

ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET: On tour with the new production of *The Moor's Pavane*, *Aurore* and *The Flower Festival Pas de Deux*. Bruce's gripping *Swansong* completes the bill this afternoon and evening at Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds (0284 765505). Ballet's *Wayfarer* and Stevenson's *Three Préludes* replace it at the Octagon, Yeovil (0355 22884) Mon, Tues; and Northcott Theatre, Exeter (0392 54853), Thurs-Sat 3.

NOOR AL HAYAT: Programmes of Arabian dances by Amel Benhassine-Miller (Tues, Wed and Sat Mar 3) and by Wendy Buonaventura (Thurs, Fri, Sun). ICA Theatre (01-830 3647).

NORTHERN BALLET: *Giselle* today at the Grand Theatre, Blackpool (0253 28372).

JAZZ

HILTON RUZZ: Blood and guts Latin work-outs as the pianist embarks on a Contemporary Music Network tour. Queen Elizabeth Hall, London SE1 (01-928 8800), Thurs; RNCM, Manchester (061 273 4504), Fri; then Durham, Sat Mar 3.

THE 1980 BRITISH JAZZ EXTRAVAGANZA: Start of a sprawling, 31-date tour by the bands of Kenny Ball, Acker Bilk and Kenny Baker. Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham (021 643 1231), Mon; then Crawley, Hastings and Northampton.

STEVE LACY: The Paris-based soprano saxophonist goes on the road with his sextet and material from his latest BMG album. Queen Elizabeth Hall, London SE1 (01-928 8800), Wed; Band On The Wall, Manchester (061 832 8825), Thurs; then Edinburgh and Leicester.

OFF ABBEY ROAD: Following his "jazz-opera" inspired by Don Quixote, Mike Westbrook turns his attention to the music of The Beatles. Electric Cinema, London W11 (01-782 2020), Mon, Tues.

BRIDGE

You are playing against Omar Sharif, who has just gone down in a rather unlucky slam. It seems a normal result—until you quietly suggest that he could have made it by a superior line of play. His face crumples, for he knows you are right.

Against two ranking experts, you have landed an impossible contract by means of a brilliant deception. Nothing is said, but they eye you with a new respect.

Wishful, these dreams of glory, for although few things are sweeter than confounding the experts, it is confoundingly difficult to do so. But "difficult" implies "not impossible", as Joan Burgess, a Nottingham housewife, showed when she held the West cards below:

♠ K8754	♠ A102	♠ A83	♠ A109
♥ A83	♥ K853	♥ A10	♥ J92
♦ A10764	♦ A103	♦ A103	♦ A103

W N E S
Burgess — — — —
West — — — —
East — — — —
South — — — —

South was Sally Horton, also of Nottingham, a world grandmaster who has twice won the women's world team championship. Her bid of two spades was made in the expectation that North, for his takeout double, held length in the major suits.

Considering that South had responded only tardily to his double, North's raise to game was a gamble. But the contract could have been made by taking advantage of the "magic" trump situation: with the bare Q-9 well placed, South could have held her losses in this suit to one trick.

West, the heroine of this story, led the king of diamonds, taken by the ace as dummy discarded a club. Hoping to establish the dummy hand, South led a heart to the king and a low heart back.

Suppose that East is allowed to hold this trick, which of course is what would normally happen. East returns a diamond, ruffed in dummy. Declarer now ruffs a heart in her own hand with the 2 of trumps, confident that West, who still has the ace of hearts, will be unable to overruff.

South continues by leading the jack of trumps, pinning the Q-9 and leaving the dummy hand high except for the ace of trumps and a club loser. In a life the play went differently. When the second round of hearts was led from the table, West played the ace on her partner's jack, establishing dummy's suit!

West returned a diamond for dummy to ruff and declarer led a heart from dummy. Convinced that a low ruff would fail, she ruffed with the 10. Now the contract could not be made, as there was no way to avoid losing two trump tricks and a club.

The hand was played in the Epson Worldwide Bridge Contest, with more than 80,000 competitors. It won for

Mrs Burgess a World Bridge Federation award for outstanding play.

West's play of the ace of hearts was both daring and unusual, but it arises from a simple rule that has a very wide application. As a defender, you should play a card that you are known or are presumed to hold whenever you can do so without cost. The advantage is obvious in this common situation:

♠ J4	♠ N	♠ E	♠ S
♥ 105	♥ W	♥ E	♥ S
♦ A982	♦ N	♦ E	♦ S

Declarer leads the 2 from hand and finesses the jack. When he continues with the king, West must not fail to drop the queen, the card he is known to hold. On the third round declarer will have to decide whether to finesse the 9 or play for the drop. If the queen is not played under the king, he has no problem.

To play the right card in the situation below should be routine:

♠ A984	♠ N	♠ E	♠ S
♥ KJ95	♥ W	♥ E	♥ S
♦ 83	♦ N	♦ E	♦ S

As Estonia begins to free itself from years of subordination to the Soviet system, it is welcome to see that its national chess hero, Jaan Elvest, is discovering his true chess identity. In the Belgrade tournament of November last year, Elvest had already turned in an excellent performance, sharing second prize with Timman behind a rampant Kasparov.

Then, at the tournament in the Italian town of Reggio Emilia over the turn of the year, the Estonian Grandmaster clocked up a truly Kasparovian result, finishing no less than one and a half points ahead of the mighty Karpov.

It is rare that a tournament winner can succeed without a little luck. In the following game the gods smiled on Elvest just as his Icelandic opponent seemed within reach of the haven of the draw.

White: Jaan Elvest; Black: Margerit Petruson. Queen's Gambit Declined, Slav Defence.

1 ♠d4	2 ♠c4	3 ♠e4	4 ♠d4
5 ♠f3	6 ♠e5	7 ♠d4	8 ♠d4
9 ♠e2	10 ♠d4	11 ♠d4	12 ♠d4
13 ♠d4	14 ♠d4	15 ♠d4	16 ♠d4
17 ♠d4	18 ♠d4	19 ♠d4	20 ♠d4
21 ♠d4	22 ♠d4	23 ♠d4	24 ♠d4

Black should now play 43...Ne6. Instead he falls into a diabolical trap which costs him a piece.

CHESS

Black introduces complications speculating on the fact that White's rook on h3 appears to be shut out of play.

White's pawns seem weak but the simplification has increased the strength of his bishop, a factor which Petruson soon sadly underestimates.

39 ♠d4 40 ♠d4 41 ♠d4 42 ♠d4 43 ♠d4 44 ♠d4 45 ♠d4 46 ♠d4 47 ♠d4 48 ♠d4 49 ♠d4 50 ♠d4

Black should now play 43...Ne6. Instead he falls into a diabolical trap which costs him a piece.

If 44...exd4 45 Bxd4 Re3 46 f4. 47 ♠d4 48 ♠d4 49 ♠d4 50 ♠d4

1 ♠d4	2 ♠c4	3 ♠e4	4 ♠d4
5 ♠f3	6 ♠e5	7 ♠d4	8 ♠d4
9 ♠e2	10 ♠d4	11 ♠d4	12 ♠d4
13 ♠d4	14 ♠d4	15 ♠d4	16 ♠d4
17 ♠d4	18 ♠d4	19 ♠d4	20 ♠d4
21 ♠d4	22 ♠d4	23 ♠d4	24 ♠d4

WINNING MOVE

In this position taken from the game Zilberstein (White) — Veresov (Black), how can Black win quickly?

Send your answer on a postcard with your name and address to: The Times Winning Move Competition, The Times, Pennington Street, London E1 6BN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday next week will win a Times water-based personal chess computer. The winning move will be printed in The Times next Saturday.

The three winners of The Times personal chess computers are: F. J. Bort, New Malden, Surrey; George Bird, Oxtampton, Devon; Mr. J. Sengupta, Thorpe St Andrew, Norfolk, Norfolk.

Raymond Keene
Next Saturday the world's longest running fixture (founded 1873), the annual Oxford v Cambridge Varsity Match, takes place at the Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall. This year it is sponsored by City solicitors Watson, Farley and Williams. Oxford, led by Grandmaster David Norwood (Keeble College), the first Grandmaster ever to play in this competition, will be out to avenge last year's defeat.

CROSSWORD

CONCISE NO 2111

Prizes of the Collins Concise Dictionary will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, March 1. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, Pennington Street, London, E1 6BN. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, March 3.

ACROSS	1 Pain-giving relisher (6)	4 Deadened (4)	7 Moose (3)	9 Brighten (7)	10 Apennines state (5)	11 Male household head (13)	12 Rome amphitheatre (9)	16 Eye medicine (13)	19 Rome river (5)	20 Tornado (7)	21 Expire (3)	22 Cur (4)	23 Entrapped (6)
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DOWN
1 Drowsy (6)
2 South Holland blue ware (5)
3 Sunday (7)
5 Nuclear reactor element (7)
6 Juvenile (6)
7 Sum up neatly (11)
8 New Zealander (4)
12 Live together (7)
13 Feeling (7)
14 Base (6)
15 Scientific cross (6)
17 Difficult (4)
18 External (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 2110
ACROSS: 8 Bravo 9 Ochre 10 Own 11 Light year 12 Dares 14 Egghead 17 Captain 19 Aloof 22 Furnished 24 Dot 25 Loin 26 Emulate
DOWN: 1 Abroad 2 Manner 3 Ballista 4 Tongue in cheek 5 Boot 6 Wheeze
The winners of prize Concise No 2105 are Mrs R. M. Pomeroy, Gidea Park, Romford, Essex; C. H. Beaumont, Godalming, Surrey.

SOLUTION TO NO 2105 (last Saturday's prize concise)
ACROSS: 1 Saure 4 Sun 7 Sod 9 Rolltop 10 Avert 11 Disinvest 12 Pseudonym 16 Inevitably 19 Kadl 20 Leonize
DOWN: 1 Sindle 2 Talus 3 Romance 5 Tiebeam 6 Noize 7 Spread-eagle 8 Darn 12 Pretext 13 Noisome 14 Sikim 15 Wyvern 17 Idle 18 Idiom

Name _____
Address _____

- FOOTBALL
- RACING
- BOOK
- RUGBY UNION

Watch

Engla

Celtic face a beaten in O

Sharp on two chary

- FOOTBALL 51
- RACING 52 53
- BOOK 54
- RUGBY UNION 55

SPORT TRAVEL & LEISURE

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24 1990

Watching for the approach of the storm

Kingston
"Welcome to the Caribbean" was the almost instantaneous message at Miami airport. Granted I was yet to reach Caribbean territory itself, but as I was released from the excellent ministrations of British Airways, things started to change somewhat. Various rearrangements to the schedule were called for and Air Jamaica was working on Caribbean flexi-time, which meant a certain reluctance to bring the aircraft up from Kingston to take us back down there.

But at least when we did manage to take to the air again, the smiles were there to absorb the frustra-



David Gower

The former England captain with his first dispatch for The Times from the West Indies

tion, and there was also recognition at the destination from immigration, customs, and, most important, from the fellow delegates by the Jamaican Cricket Association to pick me up and ferry me to the hotel.

He had at least managed to

hang on until 2 in the morning, though whether it was me or the packet containing the balls for the Test match that was more important we shall never know.

The mood in the camp smacked very much of the fall before the storm. Most of the players practised on Thursday, but those that had earned a respite through their exertions in the Jamaica match — something familiar about all that — and also seemed suitably relaxed through the rest of the day by the hotel pool. The opposition, too, seemed relatively unconcerned about the imminent start of hostilities, with Richie Richardson, their most in-form batsman of the

moment, also showing good form on the tennis court.

As ever, this apparent nonchalance conceals the team's growing concentration on the task ahead. By yesterday, that awareness was heightened by the proximity of the match. Talk inevitably centred on the West Indian pace attack, both Gower and Lamb prepared to give genuine respect to the genuine pace of Ian Bishop, who, Malcolm Marshall happily conceded, is going to be the quickest of the lot this time around. With Patterson and either Walsh or Moseley to complete the usual four-ball, the situation remains quite familiar.

My worry is that the England squad has not had enough of a sharper in the build-up to this Test. Allan Lamb was concerned

that the quickest bowling he had faced was in practice, having yet to deal with a genuine bouncer in the middle. As is always true on tour, at least one or two of the batsmen selected to play will not have much form to take in with them.

Word has it that the pitch will not be the demon that breathed fire here four years ago, and it certainly looks a better wicket without the grassy undulations that were present last time round. Mind you, it is always wrong to judge such matters too early.

Graham Gooch and his men must only think about all that on the morning of the match, and adapt to whatever conditions emerge. Time spent worrying about a pitch is generally wasted and they must just be conjuring up as many positive thoughts as they can muster.

Graham, for instance, can look back nine years to his great 153 against Holding, Croft, Garner and Marshall, and of course to 200-odd only the other day. And as a team they must rely on the atmosphere and adrenaline of a Test match to lift themselves, as appeared to happen in the field at Trinidad in the opening attempt at international cricket on this tour.

England prepare for Test of nerve

From Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent
Kingston

The first morning of every Test series brings with it frayed nerves and a special thrill of anticipation. This one applies a heavier dose of emotion. Indeed, to be an Englishman in Jamaica this morning is to feel nothing more strongly than fear.

Graham Gooch's players would not, publicly pitch it quite so strong, though any who refuse to admit to a degree of apprehension have either forgotten what day it is or have acquired the gift of self-delusion.

It is those of us who are watching, detached from the single-mindedness of the team room, who will feel the acute fear — a fear for the physical and mental health of players entering an unforgiving trial of character and a fear for the damage these next two months could inflict on an English game which has already been in the casualty ward, condition critical, for some little while.

This is a cruelly timed tour which England, desperate for remedies and rehabilitation, neither wanted nor needed. Obligated to go through with it, on the dubious pretext of political diplomacy and cricketing courage, England today line up at the tapes for a contest which, pessimistically, has all the competitive potential of Desert Orchid taking on a selling plaster.

Tetley's, the Yorkshire brewery, yesterday pledged £160,000 to the England team. "All they have to do is win the series. The offer could have been doubled by even the most parsimonious financial advisor without outlandish risk."

When your current form reads one win in 25 Tests and when the opposition has beaten you 14 times in the last 15 starts it is hard to feel enthusiastic about beginning a new series on a ground of harsh and painful memories.

Sabina Park was the beginning and the end of England's

Line of attack: the five West Indies fast bowlers (from left), Marshall, Moseley, Walsh, Patterson, and Bishop, in readiness for the first Test match against England, which starts today

aspirations on their last Caribbean tour. Mike Gatting's hideous facial injury in the one day international was followed by a three-day Test defeat on a scandalously inadequate pitch. David Gower, now reporting this series alongside me, remembers it as the downturn of his first spell as captain; some small consolation is that only two of today's England team were there to remember it at all.

Even if this pitch has responded kindly to surgery, as reports and appearance would have us believe, England will need to play above themselves to achieve their priority of survival in this first of five Tests, sponsored by Cable and Wireless.

Their inexperience is an overwhelming factor. Nine of the England team will have fewer than 50 caps between them; the West Indians, discounting their older statesmen Richards and Greenidge, aggregate well over 300.

The comparison is still starker among the team bowlers. The West Indies' fearsome four have taken 523 wickets in 121 Tests; the England quartet totals 46 wickets in 100 fewer Tests.

Gooch simply must make runs consistently and this, attached to the heavy demands of captaincy, is a burden he will do remarkably well to carry. Lamb, the other previous tourist, is equally important but Smith, worryingly short of runs, and Larkins, full of runs but playing his first Test in nine years, remain unknown quantities in this environment.

Both Smith and Larkins have suffered out here from

battling on pitches far slower than they would like and although one would not suggest they are exactly looking forward to confronting Marshall and Bishop on something with genuine pace in it, their style of batting will undoubtedly be suited by it.

Rarer by far, are Alec Stewart and Nasser Hussain, close companions here and now likely to make their Test debuts together if England persist with the restrictive policy of fielding only four specialist bowlers, a policy which historically has no support and will now surely make England's task approximate ever more closely to scaling a mountain in stilettos.

WEST INDIES: Greenidge, Haynes, Richardson, Richards (capt), Hooper, Beck, Dujon, Marshall, Bishop, Patterson, Walsh, Arthurton, Moseley.
ENGLAND: Gooch (capt), Lamb, Smith, Larkins, Stewart, Marsh, Gower, Cook, Fraser, Malcom.

TEST MATCH AVERAGES

West Indies — Batting and fielding									
Player	M	INN	Runs	HS	100	50	Avg	Sts	Ct
K.L.T. Arthurton	5	8	2	105	37	—	17.50	2	—
C.A. Bell	3	1	73	35	—	—	36.50	4	—
I.R. Bishop	5	8	55	30	—	—	27.50	—	—
P.J. Dujon	54	89	2284	126	5	14	26.06	205	6
C.G. Greenidge	34	53	1829	123	1	34	45.12	30	—
D.L. Haynes	35	140	17	5340	104	12	31.41	25	—
D.L. Hooper	16	24	88	100	1	3	25.55	10	—
M.D. Marshall	25	34	8	745	50	—	18.32	25	—
B.P. Patterson	17	21	88	21	—	—	8.00	2	—
R.B. Richardson	108	151	10	7945	291	27	51.98	112	—
R.A. Smith	65	75	7	2590	194	10	19.44	48	—
C.A. Walsh	24	43	16	277	30	—	10.33	4	—

* denotes not out

Bowling

Player	M	INN	Runs	W	BB	50	100	Avg
K.L.T. Arthurton	5	8	2	105	37	—	—	17.50
C.A. Bell	3	1	73	35	—	—	—	36.50
I.R. Bishop	5	8	55	30	—	—	—	27.50
P.J. Dujon	54	89	2284	126	5	14	26.06	205
C.G. Greenidge	34	53	1829	123	1	34	45.12	30
D.L. Haynes	35	140	17	5340	104	12	31.41	25
D.L. Hooper	16	24	88	100	1	3	25.55	10
M.D. Marshall	25	34	8	745	50	—	—	18.32
B.P. Patterson	17	21	88	21	—	—	—	8.00
R.B. Richardson	108	151	10	7945	291	27	51.98	112
R.A. Smith	65	75	7	2590	194	10	19.44	48
C.A. Walsh	24	43	16	277	30	—	—	10.33

* denotes not out

England — Batting and fielding

Player	M	INN	Runs	HS	100	50	Avg	Sts	Ct
R.J. Bailey	1	0	46	43	—	—	—	—	—
D.J. Capel	11	18	0	56	—	—	—	—	—
P.A.J. DeFreitas	13	19	1	204	40	—	—	—	—
A.R.C. Fraser	3	5	0	47	29	—	—	—	—
G.A. Gooch	73	123	724	103	—	—	29.95	73	—
E.E. Hemmings	9	14	3	280	35	—	—	—	—
A.J. Lamb	57	100	3038	157	9	12	34.04	53	—
W. Larkins	8	11	10	175	34	—	—	—	—
D.E. Malcom	1	2	0	14	3	—	—	—	—
R. Russell	7	12	3	68	129	1	24.55	77	—
G.C. Smith	8	8	2	120	32	—	—	—	—
R.A. Smith	8	15	2	288	143	2	44.85	3	—

* denotes not out

Bowling

Player	M	INN	Runs	W	BB	50	100	Avg
D.J. Capel	11	18	0	56	—	—	—	—
P.A.J. DeFreitas	13	19	1	204	40	—	—	—
A.R.C. Fraser	3	5	0	47	29	—	—	—
G.A. Gooch	73	123	724	103	—	—	—	29.95
E.E. Hemmings	9	14	3	280	35	—	—	—
A.J. Lamb	57	100	3038	157	9	12	34.04	53
W. Larkins	8	11	10	175	34	—	—	—
D.E. Malcom	1	2	0	14	3	—	—	—
R. Russell	7	12	3	68	129	1	24.55	77
G.C. Smith	8	8	2	120	32	—	—	—
R.A. Smith	8	15	2	288	143	2	44.85	3

* denotes not out

Compiled by Richard Lushwood

Celtic face a barren season if beaten in Old Firm clash

By Roddy Forsyth

Whether or not each of this afternoon's seven Scottish Cup-ties should provide a memorable passage in the annals of the tournament, their status as appetizers for the weekend's principal event will not be altered.

The meeting of Glasgow's Old Firm, at Parkhead tomorrow, would have overshadowed all else even without the heightened drama of Celtic's plight, which has brought them to the point, in a hitherto barren season, where a defeat at the hands of Rangers will condemn them to six months without the possibility of success in any competition.

Aside from the scramble for a place in next season's UEFA Cup, Celtic's ambition will be deferred until the new term starts in August, and it is only the need to close ranks in the face of a confrontation with their oldest rivals which has contained their supporters' exasperation at such a humbling turn of events.

Since the turn of the year, Celtic have won only twice — against erratic St Mirren in the league, and the first division side, Forfar Athletic, in the cup. They have endured three consecutive home defeats for the first time in 32 years, and

there is much embittered talk on the terraces and in the supporters' associations about the Parkhead directors' apparent failure to match Rangers in style and ambition.

There is a degree of unfairness in the charge: the same board sanctioned the signing, for a record fee for the club, of Maurice Johnston last April. When the deal broke down amid acrimony, few could have guessed that Johnston was about to burst through a cordon of taboos to sign for Rangers.

Since then, Celtic have failed to beat their city rivals, drawing once and losing twice in the subsequent meetings. The fact that Johnston scored the only goal in the final minute of their league encounter at Ibrox on November 4 last year, caused the Celtic support excruciating dismay. If he should repeat the feat on their own territory tomorrow, it is only to be expected that their wrath will severely shake the already beleaguered directors.

This is to anticipate, however, and despite the sizeable gap in form between the two sides, Rangers are no certain to leave Parkhead with a place in the quarter-finals guaranteed. In their past three

matches, Celtic have drawn with Dundee, Hibernian and Aberdeen, but their co-ordination has improved and there are signs of a revival, though possibly a fragile recovery.

For their part, Rangers have been more subdued of late, drawing consecutive matches with Motherwell and Heart of Midlothian and, in the absence of a serious challenge to their domination of the Scottish game, it is difficult to gauge precisely how well they are presently performing.

Both camps are very likely to field familiar line-ups, and both report a satisfactory approach to this crucial contest. Rangers appear to possess far too much versatility for their rivals, but the Ibrox club was caught cold in last year's cup final and, at Parkhead in particular, they must be wary of a head-to-head contest on Celtic's terms.

A replay is perhaps the most plausible probability, as it is with the most attractive tie today — that at Tynecastle between Hearts of Midlothian and Motherwell, two sides whose meetings this season have produced a rash of cautions and dismissals, largely the product of conflicting styles of football which sit uneasily with each other.

Elsewhere, Stirling Albion and Inverness Caledonian are not easily separable, but Aberdeen are a league ahead of Morton, as are Dundee United, who meet Queen of the South. St Mirren are not likely to be over-troubled by Clydebank, nor Hibernian by East Fife, although both premier division sides have struggled against supposedly inferior opposition in recent years.

West Ham invest future in Bonds

By Dennis Sigay

Billy Bonds, who joined West Ham United 23 years ago and made a record 795 first-team appearances for the club, was yesterday named manager in succession to Lou Macari, who resigned last weekend.

The West Ham directors discussed the appointment at a board meeting on Thursday and decided in favour of Bonds, aged 43, who became youth-team coach when he ended his playing career two years ago.

Ronnie Boyce, the senior coach (temporarily put in charge four days after the end of Macari's troubled reign), will be assistant to Bonds.

Tony Carr will stay as reserve team coach as West Ham aim to restore stability to a club that has had only six managers in 90 years and has always presented a family image.

Bonds, who chose the team for the game against Blackburn Rovers at Upton Park today, said: "There will be no calling me Boss or Gaffer. It will be Billy or Bonzo. It is always first names at West Ham. I never called John Lyall Boss."

Bonds, one of Upton Park favourite sons, will be a popular choice with supporters as the new manager. He said: "Stability is the key and hopefully that is what we can get now. The first objective is to put together a winning run; the first half dozen games will be important as we are still in with a chance of reaching the play-offs, although I am under no pressure from anyone to do that."

Of his appointment, Bonds said: "It is not something I always wanted to do. Now I

BILLY BONDS

Born: Woolwich, September 17 1946

Honours: Awarded the MBE for services to football after the 1987-88 season. England under-23 international (two caps). Twice winning captain in FA Cup Final (v Fulham 1975 and Arsenal 1980). Second division championships, 1980-81. League Cup runners-up, 1981-82. European Cup-Winners' Cup runners-up medal, 1975-76.

Career details: 1964: Joined Charlton Athletic, for whom he made 57 League appearances, scoring 1 goal. 1967: Joined West Ham United for £47,500. His 663 League appearances are a club record. He scored 48 goals before retiring in 1968. 1977: Came close to full England recognition when he was a substitute for the World Cup qualifying match against Italy, 1982. Twice forced to withdraw from England squad through injury.

have been offered it, it is nice and I feel proud to do it."

Bonds was signed for West Ham by Ron Greenwood from Charlton Athletic in 1967 for £47,000. He captained the side to FA Cup final victories against Fulham in 1975 and Arsenal in 1980 and to the runners-up position in the European Cup-Winners' Cup in 1975-76.

Bonds was awarded an MBE for his services to football after the 1987-88 season. He was twice capped at England under-21 level and was a substitute for the full international side for a World Cup qualifying game against Italy in 1977.

The directors chose from within rather than move for an established managerial figure in a bid to restore stability after an undisturbed season that has seen the club beset by off-field problems and knocked out of the FA Cup and Littlewoods Cup by opposition from the lower divisions.



TRAVEL

UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ITALY

Across the Adriatic from Venice, the islands off the Dalmatian coast still exhibit many signs of a century of Venetian rule. As you sip a cappuccino or munch a pizza you'd swear you were in Italy, reports Andrew Gibbon Williams. Page 59

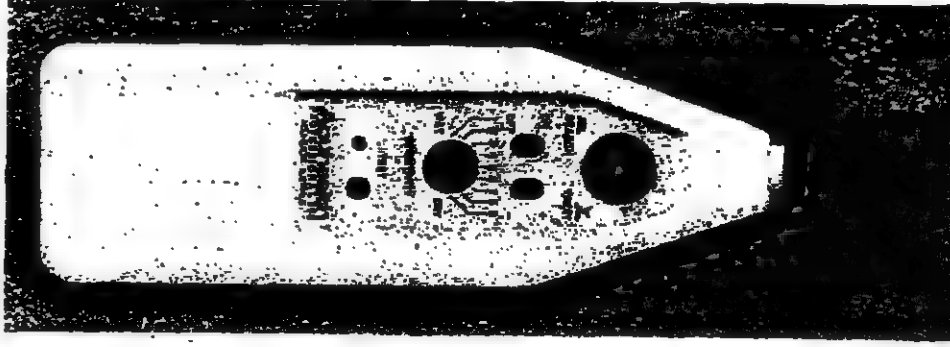
MAD TANGO IN BUENOS AIRES

Colourful, noisy, self-assured, arrogant Buenos Aires looks like a near copy of Paris, with a touch of Bagshot, circa 1936. But inflation there is dancing a mad tango, a soaring 5,279.3 per cent. Michael Watkins describes what keeps the Argentine capital ticking. Page 62

THE ART OF FALLING OFF A HORSE



Like to take a horse-riding holiday, but don't know how to ride? Robin Neillands reports on the pleasure and pain, the culture and costs, of learning the equine art. Page 64



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For all types of sporting injuries, arthritis, back pain and pain in general.

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No-needles acupuncture. Developed by a leading Australian doctor and acupuncturist, in conjunction with South Australia's Technology Park, Acuhealth doesn't use needles.

Instead, it uses minute electronic impulses to locate specific treatment points and stimulate them painlessly without puncturing the skin. It helps provide relief for many conditions including back and neck pain, rheumatic pain, headache, migraine, PMT, sinusitis, stress, sporting injuries and pain in general.

The Acuhealth kit, which comes with a 30 day money back guarantee, comprises the unit and a comprehensive, easy to follow treatment and instruction book.

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Acuhealth is also available in Harrods, John Bell and Croydon, Porter Nash, and other leading pharmacies.

TO: ACUHEALTH FREEDOT 3, LONDON W10 4NT. Please send me your free information and kit for my use. NAME: ADDRESS: POSTCODE: or telephone (01) 580 0624

Forest Sun in Cheltenham switch

Spartan Lemon to sparkle in first Times qualifier

By Brian Beal

The first of the season's qualifiers in the Times Championship series gets underway at two of today's point-to-point meetings.

At the North Hereford race has already been divided, and with 52 entries for the corresponding event at the Vale of Evesham, a split here is more than a possibility.

Although huge fields and little previous form go on for most of the contenders, Spartan Lemon may supply one of the answers.

At Towcester last May, he started favourite in the Times final, but his jumping left him down and he could only finish fifth. Having not yet won a restricted race — he was second in his qualifier — Spartan Lemon can have a second bite of the cherry and is down to go at the Vale meeting.

He was well prepared for his initial outing last year and is my selection, although Helvabattle could live up to his name and the Dark Water might also provide further stern opposition.

New Lord has raced only twice in his life but on the second occasion showed a good turn of foot when winning a weak maiden race last May. Only a seven-year-old, there is still the likelihood of improvement from him and he may be the one they all have to beat in the first division at the North Hereford, where Chance Buy, Shielding and Lucky Trout are also engaged.

After Ahalia won a maiden point-to-point last season he had an outing in a hunter chase at Towcester and was still in with a chance when falling at the second last. Although not seen so far this year, — he pulled up on his initial outing in 1989 — he is the form horse for the second division. It may, however, be worth taking a chance instead with Spring Socks, who showed both resolution and aptitude in both his races as a five-year-old last season.

The Cheltenham Forest in the Ande event, Fibreguide Tech may start at restrictive odds following his second at Towcester a fortnight ago. Better value may prove to be Sunday School, who has yet to be seen this year after winning consistently last term after winning an open race at Weston Park in early March.

There will be an interesting logistical problem for the organisers and the bookmakers as the Army meeting with a gap of only 20 minutes between divisions of the open and the ladies races.

With the Land Rover qualifier divided three ways, nine races on at the county level. Whitbread is a likely absentee so Sandown hunter chase winner Hand Over has Olyvo and Nannos to beat in the first.

The winner of the Cheltenham

THE TIMES

Point-to-point

Championship

final of this series, Polar Glen, was

tailed off on his reappearance

at Wincanton so Pepe

Blues, an impressive winner at

Kingston Blount a fortnight ago,

Hardie and Flarey Spark.

Ready Steady could make it

three in a row at the West Percy

and Milvale and Roscoe Boy

may emulate this feat in the

Fillington Ladies.

The corresponding event in

the Mendips Farmers gives six-

year-old Khatif an excellent

chance of enhancing his already

considerable reputation.

But the horse who had his reputa-

tion dented when beaten into a

third place at Cotenham, has a

chance to atone at the North

Hereford, while at the Bolsover

For A Lark again looks

unavailable.

Today's fixtures

Army, Towcester, three miles west

of Alderhot (12.30 start): Beverley,

Lancaster, 2.5 miles; Cheshire

Forest, 2.5 miles; North Hereford

(12.30); North Hereford, 7m

Hawthorn (12.30); North Hereford,

7m; Duncombe Park, 1m SW Hamley

(12.30); Vale of Evesham, 1.5m; Vale

of Evesham, 1.5m; West Percy

and Milvale, 3m E of town, (1.30).

Gray in step

on Rubika

Top New Zealand amateur rider

Denis Gray, made his first visit

to Kelso a winning one

yesterday with an all-the-way

victory on Stan McElroy's Rubika in

the Hamilton Memorial Handicap

Chase.

Gray, a dairy farmer who has

ridden 90 winners in New

Zealand and 12 in this country,

hopes to partner Macroom in

the Kin Muir Chase.

Racing next week

MONDAY: Doncaster, Leicester,

Southwell (AW).

TUESDAY: Nottingham, Plumpton,

Southwell (AW).

WEDNESDAY: Wetherby, Worcester,

Lingfield Park (AW).

THURSDAY: Ludlow, Lingfield Park

(AW).

FRIDAY: Newbury, Haydock Park,

Southwell (AW).

SATURDAY: Newbury, Haydock Park,

Southwell (AW).

SUNDAY: Doncaster, Leicester,

Southwell (AW).

Races in bold



Eventual winner The Nigelsman (Mark Perrett, far side) and Tournen Prince (Ronnie Beggs) locked together over the last at Kempton yesterday

Upson lines up another valuable prize

From Our Irish Racing Correspondent, Dublin

John Upson, whose Nick The Brief denied the local reputation in the Vincent O'Brien Irish Gold Cup last Saturday, can win another big prize this afternoon with his mare No Grand in the Ladies' Trial Chase at Punchestown.

Upson's Nick The Brief, who is trained by Upson, No Grand is in the form of her life. She is a 12-1 shot, but she is a proven winner. She has won the Ladies' Trial Chase at Punchestown twice before, in 1987 and 1988.

At the time of her last win, she was 12-1 shot, but she is a proven winner. She has won the Ladies' Trial Chase at Punchestown twice before, in 1987 and 1988.

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Punchestown today - BBC1

Going soft

1.35 BALTINGLASS HURDLE (4-Y-O: 12.4, 140: 2m) (8 runners)
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Henderson hope heads for festival

See You Then will now almost

See You Then will now almost certainly go straight to Cheltenham in an attempt to win the Champion Hurdle for a record fourth time.

Nicky Henderson reported the 10-year-old perfectly all right after his fall in the Kingwell Hurdle at Wincanton on Thursday.

Henderson was considering sending the horse to Haydock next Friday, but he said "My inclination is that we want to see that race will only be 10 days away from Cheltenham and I wouldn't want to run him on very short grass."

See You Then's career looked overcast when he fell in the Kingwell Hurdle two years ago.

When connections finally got the gelding back to the course, at Nottingham on Saturday, he was a 10-1 favourite, finishing a distant sixth, but he performed with much more zest on Thursday.

Racing with the leaders he was still in fourth place, although beginning to weaken, when coming down at the second last.

Henderson said: "I was very pleased with the way he ran. You can forget his Nottingham race — in effect Thursday was his first race for two years."

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FOOTBALL

3.0 unless stated

Barclays League

First division

Aston Villa v Wimbledon

Chelsea v Manchester U

Crystal Palace v Sheffield Wed

Derby County v Tottenham

Luton v Southampton

Man City v Charlton

Millwall v QPR

Norwich v Coventry

Premier division

Aberdeen v Dundee

Aberdeen v Dundee

Aberdeen v Dundee

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FOOTBALL

3.0 unless stated

Barclays League

First division

Aston Villa

Desert Orchid to top the bill again

By Mandarini
(Michael Phillips)

That fine treble at Wincanton on Thursday was the fairest indication possible that David Elsworth has his Whitbury team in fine fettle.

Against that encouraging background, it will be surprising if Desert Orchid, the star of the show, fails to win the Kempton Handicap Chase at Kempton today, more especially since his trainer has been so bullish about his prospects.

Kempton has always been a course where Desert Orchid has flourished, so he should be capable of giving two stone to Delius, who was such a disappointment in the corresponding race last year when he started favourite.

On that occasion, Delius did at least enter the fray fresh from a resounding victory at Ascot. Now, for one reason or another, he will be having his first race of the season.

Of the remainder only Ballyhane will be carrying his correct weight and he is not the force he once promised to be.

As Twin Oaks will be having his first race for two years, Solidasrock looks the pick of those who must carry more than their allotted weight in the long handicap.

Such an imposition did not prevent him from winning the valuable SGB Chase at Ascot in December though. On that occasion he beat Panto Prince by five lengths when in receipt of 24lb.

However, Desert Orchid looks a much more formidable opponent even though the weight concession is a bit more.

My idea of the day's best though is Altkorn Rex, who is napped to retain his unbeaten record under National Hunt rules by winning the Dovecot Novices Hurdle.

A pretty useful horse on the flat when he was aged three,



Merrick Francis, who has the unbeaten Altkorn Rex

8-1, having regarded the offer as outstanding value.

After confirming that Altkorn Rex will still be unbeaten when he contests the valuable Crown Paints Hurdle at Cheltenham in a fortnight's time.

What I regard as a substantial Total Placepot Hurdle can go to Daira Fort, who won two races on the flat for Alex Stewart last summer.

Bought for 25,000 guineas in the autumn by Charles Egerton on behalf of the Olympic National Hunt Racing Company and immediately transferred to Kim Bailey's Upper Lambour Yard, Daira Fort was within a whisker of beating the smart Spring Hay at Leicester nine days ago.

A repetition should see him master General Pershing, as well as Calico and Middlefield.

While no match for Beech Road at Cheltenham last time, Slalom still ran well enough to suggest that he can pick up the Rendlesham Hurdle en route to a crack at the Waterford Crystal Stayers Hurdle.

Courtbrook and Dancers Cavalry are the reasons why Bruce Dowling will be riding at Kempton today for Richard Lee instead of going to Kempton to partner Delius and Miss Nero for the same trainer.

While I think that Dancers Cavalry can capture the Grimthorpe Handicap Chase, I firmly believe that Courtbrook will be unable to cope with Bostadford, who meets Jimmy Fitzgerald's horse on 24th worst terms in the Ilkley Moor Novices Chase compared with their previous clash over the same course and distance in January.

KEMPTON PARK

Selections
By Mandarini

2.00 ALTKORN REX (nap).
2.30 The A Train.
3.00 Daira Fort.

Michael Seely's selection: 4.10 Rogers Princess.
The Times Private Handicapper's top ratings: 4.10 SLALOM.

3.35 RACING POST HANDICAP CHASE (Listed race: £24,100; 3m) (8 runners)

NO.	NAME	TRAINER	W.	R.	P.	W.	R.	P.
401	16-1211 DESERT ORCHID	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
402	16-1211 DESERT ORCHID	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
403	16-1211 DESERT ORCHID	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
404	16-1211 DESERT ORCHID	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
405	16-1211 DESERT ORCHID	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
406	16-1211 DESERT ORCHID	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
407	16-1211 DESERT ORCHID	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
408	16-1211 DESERT ORCHID	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13

2.0 DOVECOTE NOVICES HURDLE (Listed race: £2,847; 2m) (19 runners)

NO.	NAME	TRAINER	W.	R.	P.	W.	R.	P.
101	10-1130 THYRLAND	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
102	10-1130 THYRLAND	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
103	10-1130 THYRLAND	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
104	10-1130 THYRLAND	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
105	10-1130 THYRLAND	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
106	10-1130 THYRLAND	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
107	10-1130 THYRLAND	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
108	10-1130 THYRLAND	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
109	10-1130 THYRLAND	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
110	10-1130 THYRLAND	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13

2.45 LINDSEY HURDLE (Listed race: £2,847; 2m) (19 runners)

NO.	NAME	TRAINER	W.	R.	P.	W.	R.	P.
101	10-1130 THYRLAND	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
102	10-1130 THYRLAND	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
103	10-1130 THYRLAND	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
104	10-1130 THYRLAND	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
105	10-1130 THYRLAND	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
106	10-1130 THYRLAND	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
107	10-1130 THYRLAND	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
108	10-1130 THYRLAND	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
109	10-1130 THYRLAND	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
110	10-1130 THYRLAND	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13

2.30 EMBLEM HURDLE CHASE (Listed race: £5,117; 2m) (8 runners)

NO.	NAME	TRAINER	W.	R.	P.	W.	R.	P.
201	11-1211 THE A TRAIN	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
202	11-1211 THE A TRAIN	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
203	11-1211 THE A TRAIN	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
204	11-1211 THE A TRAIN	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
205	11-1211 THE A TRAIN	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
206	11-1211 THE A TRAIN	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
207	11-1211 THE A TRAIN	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
208	11-1211 THE A TRAIN	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
209	11-1211 THE A TRAIN	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
210	11-1211 THE A TRAIN	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13

2.45 LINDSEY HURDLE (Listed race: £2,847; 2m) (19 runners)

NO.	NAME	TRAINER	W.	R.	P.	W.	R.	P.
101	10-1130 THYRLAND	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
102	10-1130 THYRLAND	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
103	10-1130 THYRLAND	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
104	10-1130 THYRLAND	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
105	10-1130 THYRLAND	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
106	10-1130 THYRLAND	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
107	10-1130 THYRLAND	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
108	10-1130 THYRLAND	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
109	10-1130 THYRLAND	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
110	10-1130 THYRLAND	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13

3.0 TOTE PLACEPOH HURDLE (Listed race: 4-Y-O: £10,755; 2m) (11 runners)

NO.	NAME	TRAINER	W.	R.	P.	W.	R.	P.
301	11-1211 THE A TRAIN	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
302	11-1211 THE A TRAIN	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
303	11-1211 THE A TRAIN	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
304	11-1211 THE A TRAIN	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
305	11-1211 THE A TRAIN	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
306	11-1211 THE A TRAIN	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
307	11-1211 THE A TRAIN	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
308	11-1211 THE A TRAIN	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
309	11-1211 THE A TRAIN	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
310	11-1211 THE A TRAIN	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13

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NO.	NAME	TRAINER	W.	R.	P.	W.	R.	P.
101	10-1130 THYRLAND	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
102	10-1130 THYRLAND	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
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105	10-1130 THYRLAND	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
106	10-1130 THYRLAND	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
107	10-1130 THYRLAND	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
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109	10-1130 THYRLAND	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13
110	10-1130 THYRLAND	(M Phillips)	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13	11-12-13

FORM FOCUS

CAULDRON has been in the form since his win at Wincanton on Thursday. He is a high class chaser but also highly effective over hurdles. He was a valuable and consistent performer in the 1989 season, winning 12 races and placing in 15. He is a high class chaser but also highly effective over hurdles. He was a valuable and consistent performer in the 1989 season, winning 12 races and placing in 15.

SLALOM has been in the form since his win at Wincanton on Thursday. He is a high class chaser but also highly effective over hurdles. He was a valuable and consistent performer in the 1989 season, winning 12 races and placing in 15.

DESK has been in the form since his win at Wincanton on Thursday. He is a high class chaser but also highly effective over hurdles. He was a valuable and consistent performer in the 1989 season, winning 12 races and placing in 15.

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Course specialists

TRAINER	Runners	Per cent	JOCKEY	Runners	Per cent
G Hervey	3	75.0	J Leach	3	75.0
M Goss	3	75.0	D Macdonald	3	75.0
O Hervey	3	75.0	R Dwyer	3	75.0
Mrs J Phipps	3	75.0	J O'Brien	3	75.0
D Murrey	3	75.0	R Dwyer	3	75.0

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O Hervey	3	75.0	R Dwyer	3	75.0
Mrs J Phipps	3	75.0	J O'Brien	3	75.0
D Murrey	3	75.0	R Dwyer	3	75.0

Doncaster

Selections
By Mandarini

2.15 Empire Blue.
2.45 Bostadford.
3.15 Dancers Cavalry.

Michael Seely's selection: 2.15 Empire Blue.
Brian Beel's selection: 4.20 Giorla Padraig.

Doncaster

Selections
By Mandarini

2.15 Empire Blue.
2.45 Bostadford.
3.15 Dancers Cavalry.

Michael Seely's selection: 2.15 Empire Blue.
Brian Beel's selection: 4.20 Giorla Padraig.

STRAFORD

Selections
By Mandarini

2.15 Royal Borough. 2.45 Miss Chalk. 3.15 Pompadour. 3.45 Cash Is King. 4.15 Lean Air Agaudi. 4.45 Celtic Dove.

Michael Seely's selection: 2.15 ROYAL BOROUGH.
Brian Beel's selection: 4.15 Lean Air Agaudi.

Going good to soft (with soft patches)
2.15 CHERINGTON NOVICES HURDLE (Listed race: £1,998; 2m) (17 runners)

1 16-1211 DESERT ORCHID (M Phillips) 11-12-13
2 16-1211 DESERT ORCHID (M Phillips) 11-12-13
3 16-1211 DESERT ORCHID (M Phillips) 11-12-13
4 16-1211 DESERT ORCHID (M Phillips) 11-12-13
5 16-1211 DESERT ORCHID (M Phillips) 11-12-13
6 16-1211 DESERT ORCHID (M Phillips) 11-12-13
7 16-1211 DESERT ORCHID (M Phillips) 11-12-13
8 16-1211 DESERT ORCHID (M Phillips) 11-12-13
9 16-1211 DESERT ORCHID (M Phillips) 11-12-13
10 16-1211 DESERT OR

SPORTS BOOK OF THE WEEK

Witness to a sports betrayal

Britain's approach to sport lacks leadership, a policy and a structure, according to Denis Howell, Sports Minister between 1964-70 and 1974-79. Schools, adolescents and the community at large will all suffer.

I am much concerned about the future of sport. Not about the natural skills and abilities of British athletes, nor their character or willpower, but about government in all its many aspects.

We are moving in the wrong direction to be able to deliver opportunities, provide facilities and develop all the talent. Of course we shall have our successes, especially where the individual personality triumphs over these adversities, but most of our young sportsmen and women need to be encouraged very early on to generate an absorbing love of sport, to develop an unquenchable enthusiasm and a mastery of essential technique. These opportunities should be provided in abundance, instead we are creating obstacles and denying sport its proper role in society.

In the modern world the impetus for all this must come from the Government, as it does now in so many countries. But in Britain the present Government has no philosophy as to the importance of sport and no strategy to provide for it.

This is so in the field of all leisure resources. Our people enjoy the possibilities of more leisure time, better means of transport and access, but the leisure service industry is fragmented and the Government seems unwilling to bring the different agencies together and to provide for a comprehensive leisure policy.

The Sports Council, the Countryside Commission, the Nature Conservancy Council, the water industry and the local authorities (including the education authorities) ought to be working together under ministerial leadership to provide unlimited possibilities from which people can choose their leisure time enjoyment. No such policy exists.

I have always believed that the Arts Council and the tourist industry should be added to these to provide a new department of state - particularly since tourism is such an important economic industry with clout in Whitehall - and have long recommended such a policy.

It is becoming ever more important to bring this about, not only to provide for the enhancement and enjoyment of life but also because failure to do so will increase boredom and frustration, which can also cost society more than we need to find for the promotion of sensible and civilised leisure pursuits.

The greatest of all my fears for the future of sport lies in the fields of education and local authority provision. All over the country playing fields are being sold for development and they will never be replaced. This is disastrous.

When challenged, the Minister of Sport takes refuge in the fact that fewer all weather pitches are required than grass pitches. All weather pitches are excellent for heavy, everyday use but they are not a substitute for God's good grass upon which most team games should be played.

The mania for the privatization of local authority sports halls, swimming baths and recreational management is a disaster of monumental scale. All over the country young people who we need to encourage to play games and to participate in sport are being priced out of the necessary facilities while the police and the Home Office throw up their hands in horror at the effects of hooliganism and boredom!

It is to be hoped that the ratepayers soon come to their senses by realising the effect of these policies on young people and also on their own pockets as they come to appreciate the financial sleight of hand which leaves them to pay the loan charges and maintenance costs while the private operators walk away with the operating profits.

Local education authorities have been told to sell off educational sports land. This is a betrayal of the future.

If school rolls are falling the numbers of young people in our society are not disappearing; they

are moving on to become young adults, or young married people; their recreational needs still exist, and the playing fields should be redeveloped for their use.

In the area of community provision the cost of failing to provide is enormous as can be seen in every town and city in the country. As I never cease to proclaim, the future of all sport is to be found in school sport. It is being systematically undermined.

The continuous battle between Government and the teachers is having a devastating effect on morale. It is not only low salaries, which are the lot of our teachers - although salaries do reflect the esteem in which society holds its public servants. In my opinion no job is more important than the responsibility for the development of human character and personality.

Under the new syllabus physical education is not regarded as a mainstream subject. It is not only the principal grass sports which suffer - swimming is badly affected. The first casualty of financial restraint forced upon education and local governments is the closure of swimming baths in the winter and the withdrawal of transport essential for so many schools. The Swimming Teachers' Association estimate that compared with 1980 only one-third of our schoolchildren are taking swimming lessons. This is a national scandal.

Then there is the enforced requirement for teachers to "clock in" and work 1,265 hours per year in their profession. Over 40 weeks and five days per week this breaks down to 6.3 hours a day. Many heads to not provide for sport PE or the arts out of this allocation of time. The voluntary work undertaken by thousands of teachers in school sport after school time and on Saturdays does not count.

Many teachers are responding angrily by working their required number of hours and no more. School sport is suffering and although I am well aware that there are still wonderful examples of dedicated devotion being practised all over the country, the situation is not hopeful.

As president of the West Midlands Schools Athletic Association I recently attended their annual championships and found the organizers thoroughly depressed. Forty per cent of the pupils entered failed to take part because there were no teachers willing to turn out on a Saturday and Sunday. And the overwhelming numbers of our great national athletics champions will testify to the importance of school sport in their own development. It is all very sad. The effect will be long term and that means the future of British sport is in jeopardy.

Another area of concern to me is the future of team sports. I am all for the enjoyment of individual pursuits, especially camping, canoeing, walking, mountain-climbing, canoeing and the like but if these are provided for at the exclusion of team games then it will be a sorry business for us all. And that danger exists.

I know of no better way for youngsters to relate to each other in a happy situation than through playing games together. The need to win well and with generosity and to lose gracefully are among the most important attributes of life. Alas, they are becoming somewhat unfashionable in some professional circles. Not long ago I sat in on the appointments board of one of our most distinguished physical education training colleges. I decided that my question would be: "What is the role of school sport in the light of British sport?" All but one of the applicants gave depressing answers.

Recently the Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) took a lot of stick when it was reported to be opposed to team sports. My investigation proved that this was far from the case. ILEA members were in favour of team sports, but were being discouraged by education professionals who placed more emphasis upon individual activities.



Fitness on parade: Howell, as Sports Minister in 1969, meets a British group drawn from physical education colleges and bound for Tokyo for an international congress.

There is a fascination about the Olympic Games which is timeless and universal. Love sport or hate it, the magnificent feats of men and women who extend the boundaries of human achievement are forced upon the consciousness of mankind. They cannot be ignored. These days the wonders of television and radio elicit our interest in advance and compel us to become participants, even from our own sitting rooms. This compulsion knows no equal in the world. The Seoul Olympic Games of 1988 was beamed worldwide and watched by an audience of hundreds of millions. No political leader and no religious leader can assemble any comparable audience to match that appeal. That is why the influence and integrity of the Olympic

Harmony at a stroke

Games are so precious and why the integrity of the Olympic movement has to be a subject of continuous debate and its ethical standards jealously guarded against every assault. These concepts find a practical expression in the Olympic village even more than on the running track, in the swimming pool, the sports halls or the fields of sport where competition takes place. For it is in the Olympic village that the youth of the world assemble, to live and play together. They do so on terms of total equality, irrespective of all the barriers with which men divide the world. Here they are of no consequence. The

Olympic Games takes no heed of the colours of the government, ethnic origins, religious beliefs, political prejudices or differences of sex. No other activity in the world can assemble such a truly international gathering dedicated to the pursuit of peace and harmony through healthy competition. That is the massive contribution which sport makes towards international goodwill. That is why since I first understood its purpose I have been committed to support and sustain its ideal. This determination has led me into the fiercest battles, but it has also rewarded me with moments of great joy which have

been unsurpassed in my own sporting life. On the fields of sport, the only qualities that matter are the sporting abilities of the sportsman and sportswoman and their characters as people. Since 1936 and the triumph of Jesse Owens at Berlin, that is what the Olympic Games has meant to me. We must not disregard true national pride in which we all share through the reflected glory of our successes. I do believe, however, that these have got out of hand in recent years, especially with the publication of medal tables of which I thoroughly disapprove. Our admiration should be first for the achievement itself, irrespective of the nationality of the winner; national pride should always be secondary to that. If it is otherwise we are not true internationalists.

ities. These activities in the schools were not the direct result of political control.

Sport needs to campaign ceaselessly about these issues. The Sports Council should be in the lead but, as now conceived, it is a pale shadow of its original concept. It has become part of the managerial concept of government streamlined by membership and with no sense of accountability to sport.

The Royal Charter is supposed to guarantee its independence but the Minister's total control over the appointment of members and allocation of funds means that it is an arm of the Government about whose decisions it is not possible to raise questions in Parliament.

I am impressed with the appointment of David Pickup, the

new director. Sir John Smith the now retired chairman, deserves credit for that imaginative appointment, but Pickup is an administrator, not an idealist. He shows a willingness to work with the voluntary sector and we must hope that this relationship blossoms. But the structure created for him by the government is fundamentally flawed.

The CCPR is the only all-embracing forum for sport in this country, that is to say sport as represented through the governing bodies. I am well aware that many of them possess their faults and, often because of their shortcomings, but in a free society there is no other way but to vest the control of sport in a democratically elected governing body. It only causes offence when the Minister consults

an assembly of distinguished sports performers, excludes any representatives of the governing bodies and calls for "gold medal administration by gold medal athletes". That is a meaningless concept.

The CCPR, the British Olympic Association and the National Playing Fields Association are the chief agencies with which the Minister of Sport should be working. They represent British sport and membership of the Sports Council should reflect that fact. Its accountability to British sport should be through their membership and to the public at large through representatives of local authorities and sport in education and by individual appointments designed to acknowledge the needs of groups still at a disadvantage; women, the handicapped and ethnic minorities.

A truncated Sports Council cannot possibly provide for this wider representation of interests. If we are to have a small executive Sports Council then there should be a much larger council drawn from all these interests to whom it is responsible and which can determine policy. On balance, I prefer the much greater involvement of the CCPR, the BOA and the NPFA, which would have the important advantage of limiting the friction which so often afflicts British sport.

There is another important consideration. Sport needs a campaigning voice and that means a strong, knowledgeable, and independent organization. This has to be the CCPR. It is fully representative but it is not willing to involve its constituent bodies in a sustained campaign. Peter Lawson, the director, is forceful and resourceful.

He is well supported by Ron Eames, his chairman, and by the executive committee and they battle on with important issues but although they are winning most of the arguments they are not securing the victories. Nor will they until the constituent bodies learn to get involved in politics. But sports people are notoriously afraid of this. It does not have to be party politics; indeed the strength of the CCPR has to be built upon the fact that it brings together all the political interests and unites them in a common cause.

Commercialism is another growing concern. Time and again in my 1983 Howell Report on Sports Sponsorship we stated that the most important principle for sport was that at all times the governing body must govern. That principle is being eroded and sometimes flagrantly undermined. It is another responsibility for the governing bodies which cannot be shirked.

Supporters' clubs and the Football Supporters' Association have worked together under my chairmanship to make an ex-

cellent contribution towards tackling the criminality known as football hooliganism. They have considerable collective wisdom which could be available to football. I hope football uses it and I hope, too, that individual clubs will bring their supporters' organizations into their confidence. It will pay them to do so. But when the Minister is faced with huge problems of spectator behaviour he does not consult or listen either to the football authorities or the supporters. He talks of them laying down his impossible ideas, refusing the supporters even a place on his newly created football authority designed to meet their needs. How daft can you get?

The Football Trust has been an outstanding success and this must be built upon. The huge taxation on pools should be reduced - it is totally unfair when compared with taxation on other forms of gambling - and some of this money should be used to extend the work of the Trust in providing for better spectator comforts and sport in the community.

But important as football is, it is not the only sport for which we have to provide. We also need new financial provision for the encouragement of cricket, athletics, swimming, tennis, and rugby and the other sports not enjoying the support of the Football Trust.

Only if we think in these terms can the future needs of British sport be met. It is only by providing for sport in the schools and in the community that we can create the foundation upon which it can prosper. After that we have to develop the talents which emerge right through the club structures and on to international level. This is a policy which is quite capable of attainment but it will require a fundamental rethink by the Government, or by a new Government which accepts these responsibilities and assists sport to meet them.

These are extracts from *Made in Birmingham* by Denis Howell, to be published by Queen Anne Press on March 22 (£14.95).

Four who kept it mum

During my time as Minister of State for the Environment and as Minister for Sport I liked to think that I knew where I was going but I had a duty to carry as many people with me as I could. Hardly a week went by but that I took the Opposition spokesman into my confidence as far as was practical. This has never been reciprocated by my four successors in the 10 years since I left office...

Hector Mamo

Margaret Thatcher's first choice of Minister for Sport. A former president of the Scottish Rugby Union, Hector had good relationships with the governing bodies and the CCPR. He was able to announce in the House that he could endorse the agreement which I had reached with the Treasury not to tax the spot the ball competition and so guarantee income for the Football Trust. Relaxed and easy to talk to, it is regrettable he did not survive the 1980 Moscow Olympics fiasco. I doubt if he approved of his government's boycott policy and he was certainly not allowed to take part in the famous debate in the House.

Sir Neil Macfarlane

A good player of golf and cricket, Neil also knew a good deal about sports politics and the CCPR, having been No. 2 to Munro when the Conservatives were in opposition. I was surprised, then, that he got into so much trouble with the CCPR, including expensive litigation. He followed this up

with a too direct involvement in the affairs of the Sports Council. This led to the forced retirement of both the director and the deputy director.

Dick Tracey

Little if any sporting background. Tracey had been a broadcasting journalist which suggests his appointment was made with presentational skills in mind. I don't think Dick knew enough about sport to make any real impact or to promote any new thinking. He associated himself wholeheartedly with Birmingham's Olympic bid and he came over to Lausanne with us to indicate government support, but it was inevitable that his inconspicuous period of office was the opposite of him.

Colin Moyulhan

The Tracey deficiencies were certainly corrected by the appointment of Colin Moyulhan. An outstanding rowing cox of Olympic fame, he will take a new initiative about anything at the drop of a hat. He certainly has no respect for the conservative traditions of sport. It is all change with Colin - like the Sports Council which he reduced in size. Far and away the major disappointment was his handling of the football identity card scheme. He started every meeting with the statement: "The scheme is not negotiable". In other words, he was under orders from the Prime Minister, and that is how sport now perceives him.

Sir Neil Macfarlane

including expensive litigation. He followed this up

FISHING: ECOLOGY PUT FIRST AS FARM SALMON BECOMES THE FOOD FOR ALL
Race is on for the first 'green pinkies'

By Conrad Voss Bark

An article in the *Caterer and Hotelkeeper* magazine announces that 1990 will be the year that farm salmon will become food for the proletariat and will lose its upper class image, as top chefs exclude it from their menus.

Salmon fishermen are unlikely to recognize as salmon what the factories are going to do to it before it appears in the supermarkets.

The article says that, according to an informed source, two salmon recipes have been shortlisted for testing in selected restaurants this spring.

"Pinko Patties will be an alternative to the classic burger.

Made from 100 per cent mechanically recovered prime salmon, the patties contain no additives. They are calcium-rich because the unique manufacturing process uses the bones as a binding agent," the article said.

"The second product, Pinky Nuggets, are deep-frozen fried lean salmon pieces in a specially formulated batter. Farm-fresh salmon is filleted and soaked in a spray flavour-enhancing marinade, lightly smoked, and dipped into a coating designed for crispier-than-crisper."

Nothing is left to chance. "Pinkies and Pinkoes will be packaged in non-toxic, CFC-free cartons which will carry com-

plete nutritional information including vitamins content and the cholesterol level per portion."

Launch details are still to be finalized. "The company is evaluating the benefits of a 0.025p donation to the Save the Whale campaign for every patty sold. Its initial plan of giving away Save the Rainforest stickers was abandoned as it was seen to conflict with company policy towards South American beef suppliers."

Fort William is apparently campaigning hard for the honour, if that is the right word, of being the first place where you can eat a Pinky but San Fran-

cisco is still in the running. There seems no problem about the raw material. A Scottish and Norwegian consortium is guaranteeing a minimum 25,000 tonnes to meet worldwide demand.

Wild salmon are no longer of interest. Catching them, as most of us know, is uneconomic, whereas farm salmon "sustains the balance of nature" and can be made into "ecologically acceptable snacks". Ecology is the key word.

"So watch out for the advertising campaign which will mark the introduction of the first ecologically sound fast food. It's using the slogan: 'Pinkies Are Green'."

CYCLING
Clark starts peace bid

Melbourne - Danny Clark, Europe's leading six-day rider and, until Tony Doyle's serious crash in Germany last November, Doyle's favourite partner, begins a goodwill tour here tonight which he hopes will remedy the ill-feeling often shown to him by Australian officials and riders (Peter Bryan writes).

The Tasmanian-born and based Clark, aged 38, wants to start his ride towards final retirement - which is likely to be in 1992 - by offering an olive branch to those who have described him as "big headed" and "stand-offish" on previous visits to his home country.

He could not have chosen a harder debut than the top-rated 2,000 metres Austral handicap

race at Northcote velodrome, an event which only he, the former world sprint pursuit champion, Sid Patterson, and Laurie Venn have won twice.

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YACHTING
Court action dropped

The Association of British 1990, solicitors for the IYRU Sailmakers (ABS) and the British Marine Industries Federation (BMIF) have agreed to suspend their High Court action against the International Yacht Racing Union (IYRU) and its proposed eligibility code for yacht racing (Malcolm McKean writes).

In return, the IYRU has given assurances which would appear to alter fundamentally the controversial code, which seeks to categorize racing sailors into three groups: Group 1 for those who engage in racing "purely as a pastime"; Group 2 for those paid specifically to race; and Group 3 for those with any other commercial connection with yacht racing.

In a letter dated February 8,

FISHING: ECOLOGY PUT FIRST AS FARM SALMON BECOMES THE FOOD FOR ALL

Race is on for the first 'green pinkies'

By Conrad Voss Bark

An article in the *Caterer and Hotelkeeper* magazine announces that 1990 will be the year that farm salmon will become food for the proletariat and will lose its upper class image, as top chefs exclude it from their menus.

Salmon fishermen are unlikely to recognize as salmon what the factories are going to do to it before it appears in the supermarkets.

The article says that, according to an informed source, two salmon recipes have been shortlisted for testing in selected restaurants this spring.

"Pinko Patties will be an alternative to the classic burger.

Made from 100 per cent mechanically recovered prime salmon, the patties contain no additives. They are calcium-rich because the unique manufacturing process uses the bones as a binding agent," the article said.

"The second product, Pinky Nuggets, are deep-frozen fried lean salmon pieces in a specially formulated batter. Farm-fresh salmon is filleted and soaked in a spray flavour-enhancing marinade, lightly smoked, and dipped into a coating designed for crispier-than-crisper."

Nothing is left to chance. "Pinkies and Pinkoes will be packaged in non-toxic, CFC-free cartons which will carry com-

plete nutritional information including vitamins content and the cholesterol level per portion."

Launch details are still to be finalized. "The company is evaluating the benefits of a 0.025p donation to the Save the Whale campaign for every patty sold. Its initial plan of giving away Save the Rainforest stickers was abandoned as it was seen to conflict with company policy towards South American beef suppliers."

Fort William is apparently campaigning hard for the honour, if that is the right word, of being the first place where you can eat a Pinky but San Fran-

cisco is still in the running. There seems no problem about the raw material. A Scottish and Norwegian consortium is guaranteeing a minimum 25,000 tonnes to meet worldwide demand.

Wild salmon are no longer of interest. Catching them, as most of us know, is uneconomic, whereas farm salmon "sustains the balance of nature" and can be made into "ecologically acceptable snacks". Ecology is the key word.

"So watch out for the advertising campaign which will mark the introduction of the first ecologically sound fast food. It's using the slogan: 'Pinkies Are Green'."

CYCLING
Clark starts peace bid

Melbourne - Danny Clark, Europe's leading six-day rider and, until Tony Doyle's serious crash in Germany last November, Doyle's favourite partner, begins a goodwill tour here tonight which he hopes will remedy the ill-feeling often shown to him by Australian officials and riders (Peter Bryan writes).

The Tasmanian-born and based Clark, aged 38, wants to start his ride towards final retirement - which is likely to be in 1992 - by offering an olive branch to those who have described him as "big headed" and "stand-offish" on previous visits to his home country.

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ACCOUNTANCY

In training for the real world

The Chartered Institute of Accountants has launched an extensive survey to find out what its young members really do with their qualifications, Edward Fennell writes

What tasks exactly do newly qualified chartered accountants actually perform? You might be forgiven for assuming that the Institute of Chartered Accountants would know the answer to this. Well, it doesn't. And it is quite happy to admit that it doesn't and it is now determined to find out.

The first steps are being taken in an exercise to establish precisely what kind of work chartered accountants move into once qualified. Of course, the Institute has a general idea of the jobs young accountants do, and it holds statistics of those who stay in practice and those who move into business. But the aim now is to achieve a precise understanding of their functions and tasks in a specific and detailed way.

"Even among people in industry who have jobs with the same title, it is quite likely that the actual content of their work will vary enormously," says Paul Masters of Price Waterhouse, who is chairing the steering group which is driving this project. "What we are now trying to establish is a complete picture of the work

undertaken by chartered accountants in their first full job, and to establish the percentage of who does what."

The aim of this exercise is not purely academic. Finding out what people actually do is a first step towards addressing the question of what training young accountants should receive and the assessments to which they should be subject. There is, of course, no question about the rigour and the quality of the chartered accountancy qualification system. But in view of the new emphasis being given to accountants in business, and a general concern about the effectiveness of investments in education and training, the Institute is determined that the profession should focus on the right targets.

"It may be years before the process we have just commenced comes to any conclusion," Paul Masters explains, "but I believe it is a valuable exercise because we should not ignore ways of making the education and training system more relevant to what people actually do."

One of the objectives of the inquiry, which is being conducted by assessment and training consultants Maloney

& Gealy, is to establish what relationship exists between the education and exam system and what accountants actually do once qualified. It is a common characteristic of assessment systems that what is examinable becomes important, and it may be that accountancy education is skewed towards the demands of exams rather than the actual demands of chartered accountants' work.

Another possible problem may be that, because of the enormous variety of jobs entered by newly qualified chartered accountants, there may be only a relatively small core of skills and knowledge common to all of them.

Underlying this whole exercise is a fundamental question about the way professional assessments are conducted. Should they, for example, be an exact reflection of what the standards they must achieve, or ought they to be (as some commentators see the present system) some kind of endurance test and trial of ability which provides evidence that the candidate is made of "the right stuff" intellectually and personally? Such questions do not, of

course, apply solely to accountancy. Under the auspices of the Department of Employment's standards programme these issues are being raised with many professions and occupations as part of the drive to produce a better and more appropriately qualified workforce.

In the context of chartered accountancy the question of relevance to the job is especially sensitive. There is strong evidence that many people train for the profession not because they wish to become accountants as such but because the qualification is seen as a good gateway into management. Consequently by making the qualification more explicitly "relevant", its generic status as a passport into a range of opportunities - from merchant banking to teaching - could be put at risk.

The nuances of that issue cannot be evaluated, however, until Maloney & Gealy has analysed the replies to a questionnaire which was sent out last month to 1,050 accountants who qualified in 1988. In total, 37 possible areas of competence have

been identified, and the survey is asking participants which apply to them. Ranging from tasks such as "carrying out statutory external audits" and "completing personal tax returns for clients" to "awarding contracts and exercising financial and budgetary controls", the survey will end up providing a "map" of all newly qualified accountants' activities expressing both the extent of their work and the degree of overlap.

Once that map has been established (which should be by around the end of next month) the steering group, aided by Maloney & Gealy, will produce an analysis of what the jargon calls "units and elements of competence". The results will then be taken back to the profession to see if these provide a useful model for further work.

"I want to reassure people, however, that nothing will be done to disrupt the credibility of the qualification in the eyes of the membership," Masters says. "On the whole the membership likes its traditional examination system, and although there may be changes ahead, we will not be doing anything without the profession's full support."



Seeking full support from the profession: survey chairman Paul Masters of Price Waterhouse

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ACCOUNTANCY RECRUITMENT

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- DALMATIA: PORT-HOPPING
- ACTIVITY HOLIDAYS: RIDING

TRAVEL



Pounding the Buenos Aires streets: Michael Watkins found the city self-assured, even though it has to house almost half the country's population and handle a cost of living which has risen by 5,279.3 per cent in a year

A tango into melancholy

Her name was María Nieves, his Carlos Copes; and they coiled about each other like deadly black mambas. Their hair, raven dark, was brilliant. She was haughty, tubular thin, with shoulder blades like nutcrackers. He was taut, moving snappishly, a human whiplash. Together they sparked electricity in a virtuoso performance the like of which I had never seen before. And I nearly missed them altogether.

Invited to dinner and a "show" in Buenos Aires, I declined. "You must come," my Argentinian hosts insisted, "this is something different." They drove me through the San Telmo quarter, cobbled alleys where, at the turn of the century, the tango was born. The first act at the Casa Blanca was a group, Ecos Andinos, who were saucy as sparrows then suddenly melancholy, making music that sounded hauntingly like the wind I've heard moaning across the Peruvian altiplano.

Then María and Carlos tangoed. They told me what spiritualists told me of North American negro slavery; for the tango is not just the music of the *porteños* (residents of BA), it laments the *descamisados* (shirtless ones) who cried for Argentina and for themselves.

Next morning I left for Patagonia, and when I reappeared in Buenos Aires a fortnight later the dollar had soared even more crazily: in one year it has risen 11,417.5 per cent while the Ar-

gentine cost of living has grown 5,279.3 per cent. Bank deposits were paying 1 per cent interest every two hours. At the Sheraton it was impossible to change notes into small denominations for tipping.

Porteños talked about money as Londoners must have discussed the plague in 1349, dreading its contagion, speculating on their chances of survival. Their hope rested in President Menem, playboy-saviour who came into power in May 1989. The question on everyone's lips was: can he fight corruption with the same verve as he tackled opponents in his chukkas on the polo field?

Because Buenos Aires is so vast, housing 40 per cent of the country's 26 million population, I approached it by two modes of transport. First by bus, from which I viewed the most European, the most Parisian of all South American cities. Like Paris, it was self-assured, arrogant of course; there was nothing haphazard, nothing left to chance. It had been designed with scrupulous care, with grave attention to detail, as witnessed by the rococo and baroque knick-knacks embellishing those earnest grey buildings of the 1930s.

Like Paris, it is graced with wide boulevards, leafy parks and swooping, swooning statuary. Indeed, Buenos Aires has even tried to teach Paris a trick or two in architectural chic: the Avenida 9 Julio is not merely wide, measuring 425ft across, it is the widest street on earth; another main drag, 27

Buenos Aires, Michael Watkins says, looks like Paris, while its inhabitants behave as though they lived in Bagshot

miles from the Plaza de Mayo to wherever, is the longest in creation: El Obelisco is... well, it is described as the world's greatest monument to the suppository.

Then, for a couple of days, I trudged the city which, in January, was like pounding the pavements of Madrid in wicked August. I saw that BA was not Paris, but a copy. No, not a fake, simply not a terribly faithful reproduction of an unrepeatable original.

I recall the precise moment when this not very profound thought occurred to me. I was loitering in the Plaza de los Dos Congresos, staring at Rodin's "The Thinker", realizing this too was a copy, that the original was in the Rodin Museum in Paris. The Thinker's head seemed Neanderthaloid, not quite in proportion. Great body, but it was the mind I worried about.

Reprisal against these treasonable opinions came swiftly and with devastating accuracy from a mustard firing-squad. It was the latest in a series of innovative schemes by which hungry *porteños* part fleshy tourists from their purses: an urchin sprays you with mustard/ketchup/unmentionables, the cue for a public-spirited citizen to rush forward with exclamations

of horror, offering Kleenex. As you gratefully respond to this ministrations, a third accomplice relieves you of handbag/camera/watch.

I do not make too much of this; neither, if I might suggest it, should you. No malice intended to that irreproachable borough, it is not beyond the long arm of providence that your pocket could be picked in Budleigh Salterton.

By this time I was footsore and lost. I do not mean I could not find my way from the Italian district of La Boca to the Colón Theatre, from the cathedral tomb of José de San Martín to that haunt of intellectuals, the Café El Molino. I mean I was still a moonshot away from finding the key to the city's persona.

Trying again, I headed for Recoleta Cemetery, to the mausoleum of the family Duarte, reading the dedication to Evita, a sad, beautiful and evocative cancer victim who died aged 32 imploring that Argentina should not cry for her. Or so we are informed. But both the singer and the song were gone, and I was visited by no revelational echoes.

In desperation I drove 30 miles out to the Hurlingham Club,

founded in 1888 by William Dawson-Campbell and a brace of double-barrelled birds of similar plumage. It was unnerving as I imagined Bagshot circa 1935: hedgerows trim as a colonel's moustache, strings of polo ponies, leggy beauties by the pool, splinters of gossip more insinuating than a whiff of illicit eau-de-Cologne. A cricket match was in progress, very proper in whites, with "Well played, sir!" and "Howzat?" less properly, or so it seemed, in Spanish. It came to me then that the Anglo-Argentines were playing at being Brits.

The club manager, David Colvill Jones, fourth-generation Anglo-Argentine, very decently treated me to a lemonade. A nice man with blue eyes and sandy hair, he described the club as "an oasis amid the turmoil". BA, he told me, was tired, the pavements cracking up, so too the corporate morale. He seemed less anguished by inflation, which could be defeated, than by corruption, which could not.

Back in the city I revisited La Recoleta, fashionable also for restaurants and shops, noting that you could buy the usual essentials: Dior, St Laurent, Gucci, Cartier, verily a rich man's flea market. Covertly I watched *porteños* greet each other, embracing with bravura and all the signs of sincerity.

Then I settled down to read about them; and the more I read the more I realized that they are mortgaged to uncertainty. They do not know conclusively whether they are Argentinian, Spanish,

Italian, Eastern European, British; the order of their lives has been confused by civil wars, by Perón, by right- and left-wing extremists, by guerrilla groups such as the Montoneros, to say little of the anti-Semitism that has provoked as many as 100,000 Jews to flee Argentina since 1976.

The schizophrenia which, not all that long ago, characterized BA's political and emotional climate, was chillingly paraphrased by a bank clerk: "I drove home from work, kissed my wife, had dinner and watched television, I changed into black clothes, after which I took my gun and went to meet my friends. Together we travelled to our target. After we had killed him I returned to my house and went to bed. In the morning I brushed my teeth and went to work."

If you are expecting me to claim that this too could happen in Budleigh Salterton, I am going to disappoint you.

TRAVEL NEWS

Airport price checks

BAA, which runs seven UK airports including Heathrow and Gatwick, is holding down its car-parking and duty-free shop prices. The move comes after pressure from the Office of Fair Trading, which has been flooded with complaints about BAA's pricing policies.

BAA faces a Monopolies and Mergers Commission review later this year, but in the meantime it says that over the next two years parking charges will not increase by more than the retail price index at Gatwick, or by 1 per cent less than it at Heathrow.

The company will also maintain "substantial" discounts on high street prices for duty-free goods.

Free car breakdown insurance, worth up to £44,000, is being offered by Europcar to customers who book a camping holiday by the end of March. The offer is available to those who book a return crossing with Sealink on the Folkestone-Boulogne or Newhaven-Dieppe route. The holiday must include 10 nights and be taken before July 20 or after August 25 (0565 3844).

Philip Ray

SNOW REPORT

Now that the huge snow falls of 10 days ago have been packed down, euphoria has descended over the Alps. But it is justified only where the higher, well-beaten pistes are concerned. Only high up has the snow been stabilized without turning to slush in the sun.

Off-piste there is cause for only modified rapture. The problem is that so much snow has fallen on such a thin - or in some places non-existent - base that conditions will remain dangerous for a long time. Where the snow has not avalanched off already, a slow process of change will take place which cannot be detected from the surface. It is no good assuming that the rapid temperature fluctuations that occur from day to day will resolve problems deep down.

What matters is how undisturbed snow continually changes. Temperature differences within the snow causes water vapour to sublime from warmer layers and recrystallize in colder levels. This is particularly important where new snow falls on hard, frozen ground or ice. Over time, crystals at the interface can grow in granular or plate-like form which enables the upper layer to slide easily over the lower ones, creating ideal avalanche conditions.

In these circumstances it is essential that skiers should heed local warnings and use expert guides when going off piste. Do not be tempted by inviting slopes which have not been opened up, even if a few foolhardy skiers have safely traversed them. The locals do not keep them shut out of spite, and the slow changes beneath the surface may mean that what was risky yesterday is perilous today.

W. J. Burroughs

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Flying into spring

FARE DEAL

Snap up the last of this winter's flight bargains while you can. March will be a sluggish month for business (because of the late Easter) so airlines and flight specialists have plenty of special offers to drum up custom.

Take Italy, for example. Normally British Airways (BA) would charge £188 for an APEX (Advance Purchase Excursion) or £250 for a PEX (Instant Purchase) excursion to Rome, while the same fare to Venice would set you back £185 and £234 respectively. However, until the end of March, BA is marketing a "seat sale" to all its Italian destinations. So you can book a special excursion fare (no advance booking restrictions but the maximum stay is 14 days) to Rome for just £142, while Venice goes for £137 - savings of almost 50 per cent on the normal PEX fare. Other Italian destinations featured by BA with the seat sale fare are: Turin £128, Milan £128, Genoa £128, Bologna £131, Pisa £131 and Naples £133.

There are excursion fare savings on routes to Spain. That country's flag-carrier, Iberia, has deals on its Moneysaver fares from London/Heathrow to Madrid, Barcelona, Bilbao and Santiago, also when flying from Birmingham/Manchester to Barcelona and Madrid. When two people travel both ways together, the first pays the full excursion fare and the second pays half price. So, based on the London/Madrid Super PEX fare, one person would pay £139, the other £70.

There are good deals to Paris if you fly from Gatwick. Flight consolidator Euro Express is charging £75 for return Dan-Air flights (the normal PEX fare is £103), while Nouvelles Frontières is charging £65 return for flights with

Air Europe. Nice is available through Euro Express, again flying Dan-Air, at prices starting from £125 - more than £60 cheaper than the regular PEX fare of £189.

A mid-week return to Amsterdam, flying from London's Docklands airport, costs from £106 when you take London City Airways' off-peak flights between Monday and Friday.

A return flight to Vienna with Austrian Airlines costs as little as £135 when you book through St Albans-based Austro Tours. You can book to take selected flights to qualify for that particular low fare - otherwise Austro's fare to Vienna is £150, still a good saving on the regular PEX rate of £228. Other destinations in Austria include: Klagenfurt for £155, Graz £207, Salzburg from £125 and Innsbruck for £135. Austro's fare to Munich starts at £90 return when you fly with Air Europe's Saturday flights from Gatwick. Other Air Europe departures cost £108. Flying to Munich from Birmingham costs from £128 (normally £193), while flying from Manchester with BA costs £141 (normally £207) when you book through Austro.

Swiss specialist Bloomsbury Travel is charging £113 for return Swissair flights from Heathrow to Zurich, while Geneva/Basle is £113. The agency also has special fares flying Swissair from Birmingham to Zurich and flying Dan-Air from Gatwick to Bern.

Domestic routes haven't been neglected. For flights before March 24 (if you book by March 10), BA has a "UK Bargain Saver" fare valid on selected flights. This Saver fare must be booked 14 days ahead. Examples of return

fares from Heathrow: Aberdeen £67, Edinburgh/Glasgow £63, Manchester £51 and Newcastle £57. These prices are 20 per cent less than BA's normal APEX fares. On the Gatwick/Newcastle run, Dan-Air has a limited offer of £59 excursion (valid on off-peak flights) for stays of up to five days.

During March there is also a flourishing amount of price-cutting on transatlantic routes. London-based Airborn Travel, a consolidator for Pan Am and TWA, has deals not only to all the main US gateways but also to a further 60 points in the "hinterland". Airborn has hundreds of low off-season fares and the price you pay depends on how far ahead you book and how much flexibility you need. Take the example of Heathrow/New York: Airborn charges as little as £240 return if you are prepared to book a few weeks ahead.

Impulse travellers are not left out. For bookings made up until a few hours of travel, Airborn's fare to New York is a mere £300 return. All these prices include "hidden extras" such as airport tax, US customs fee and security fee. Other Airborn destinations (based on booking a few weeks ahead) include: Boston, Washington DC and Chicago for £240; Miami £290; New Orleans £325; Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle for £340. Other points covered include: San Diego, Phoenix, Dallas, Houston, Atlanta and Minneapolis.

NEXT SATURDAY

Michael Watkins steps ashore in Patagonia on his journey to South America

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The author is Travel Editor of Business Traveller magazine.

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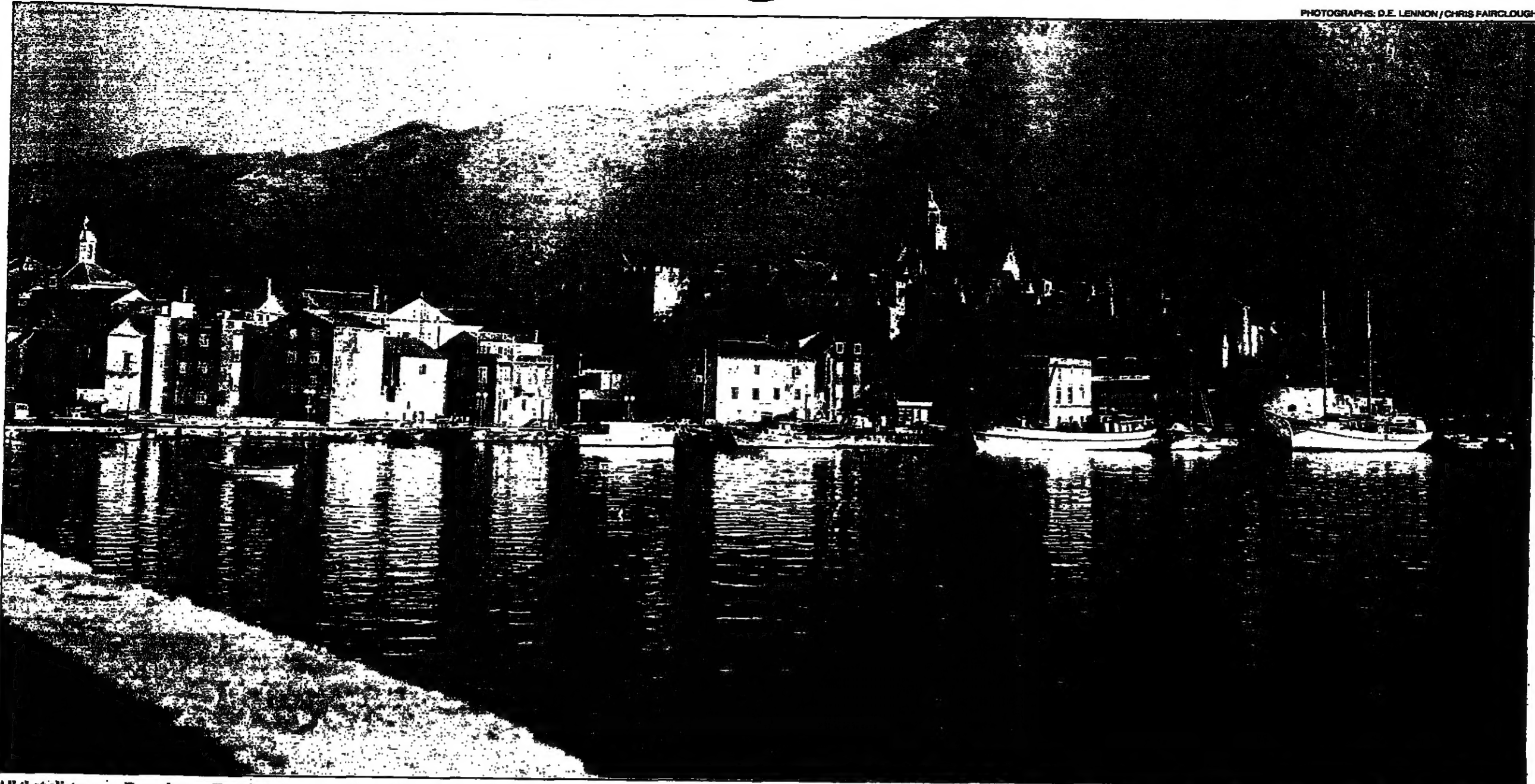
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TRAVEL

Port-hopping in Dalmatia

PHOTOGRAPHS: D.E. LENNON/CHRIS FAIRCLOUGH



All that glitters... From the sea, Korčula looks spectacular, with a perfect, conical skyline and set on a tiny peninsula only 550 yards long. But inside the walls the feeling is rather precious and there is little to explore, save the rather theatrical piazza

Andrew Gibbon Williams makes a journey of exploration along western Yugoslavia's island-strewn coastline and finds that it still owes much to the Venetians

My schooling was not big on the Balkans. Sarajevo got a mention, of course, apropos the First World War, and later I can remember seeing television clips from the grainy home-movies of Edward VIII and Mrs Simpson's pre-abdication cruise. Now I know why they chose the Dalmatian coast.

Virtually every port is Venetian. Ruthless opportunists the Venetians may have been, but when it came to architecture and town planning they took as much care with their foreign outposts as they did with Venice itself.

Even though the political reins were occasionally seized by the Hungarians, and in spite of Ottoman incursions, Napoleonic conquest, a year or two under the British and nearly a century of Viennese rule, the atmosphere of the ports remains Venetian.

As you sip a cappuccino or munch into pizza you'd swear you were in Italy. But a sedate Italy, without the roar of the motorinos, the horn-tooting and compulsive posing. The islands are virtually free of traffic and litter but there is one Italian accomplishment lacking: efficient service.

I played the invisible man in three state-run restaurants in Zadar before a menu was flung in my direction. It's a pity because when the food does come it's usually very good: lots of spicy meat dishes, Austrian culinary techniques applied to Greek ingredients.

I arrived in Split with romantic expectations of Diocletian's palace. I imagined it a Baths of Caracalla-type ruin on the city outskirts. In fact, the old town of Split inhabits the palace complex. Only in the peristyle do you get any idea of its original grandeur.

As part of the Split summer festival, a number of Yugoslav artists had done their thing in the crepuscular, vaulted basements of the palace. I found myself tripping over Barbie dolls to the echoing chords of electronic Vivaldi.

We drove north to Zadar to join our boat. The Venetians ran their Croatian show from here. In the last war it was an Italian base, so the British and Americans had a go at flattening it. Luckily they missed the Romanesque cathedral and the drum-like church of St Donatus, which rises on exposed foundations of Roman debris from the Forum floor.

Sibenik was our first real port of call. The hilly old town turned out to be a bustling

maze of irregularly stepped alleys, scrubbed paving and balconies with chunks of medieval carving protruding from walls. On the main square, I sat beneath a loggia as pretty as anything in Tuscany and tried to fathom out the Gothic/Renaissance mish-mash of the cathedral portal. It is a peculiarly Croatian type which recurs in Trogir, Korčula, Split and Dubrovnik. Two cowed, maneless lions support Romanesque figures of Adam and Eve.

Above them rises an ornate tabernacle. Like much else in this part of the world the impression is Italianate rather than Italian, more Portofino than Siena.

From Sibenik we sailed out to the Kornati islands, named after the largest of their number and heavily promoted by the tourist authorities as ideal for sailing. There are more than 100 of these barren, mostly uninhabited islets; the Cyclades writ small; repetitive and boring. Trogir is one of the most inspiring towns on the Adriatic to approach from the sea. It is built on a small peninsula separated from the mainland by an artificial channel. Passing the sturdy Venetian, nine-sided dungeon our boat tied up beside the town. Pantiled roofs and belltowers rose above the city walls, silhouetted against the dusky mountain backdrop.

The cathedral portal is a grander version of the Sibenik scheme, complete with Moorish caryatids. We ascended the rickety belltower and looked down on to the small yachts in the harbour. That evening we drank Yugoslav mineral water, beer and slivovitz. The local orchestras murdered arias from *Aida*.

Of all the Venetian ports Komiza is the most appealing. I like proper harbours, palm-lined promenades; places where people feel they can live

outside. The Venetians had a genius for domestic exterior spaces. If in the Piazza San Marco they achieved Europe's greatest drawing-room, then in Komiza and hundreds of other towns they managed elegant, cosy parlours. There are not that many places left where one can sit in cushioned, wicker chairs on the main square unhassled by vendors and beggars, unperturbed by muzak, unworried by the magnitude of the imminent tab. Not that Komiza is lifeless. In the small waterside disco pogo-ing Slav teenagers were doing their bit as if to show that Johnny Rotten lives on, at least in Dalmatia.

Komiza is also the departure point for the nearby island of Brač and Yugoslavia's Blue Grotto. Perhaps because no imperial orgies ever graced the Brač cavern, the tangle in the turquoise phosphorescence just didn't happen for me. Nevertheless, it is still worth the short sea-crossing. You can dive beneath the under-

water rock bridge and a dozen seconds later arrive panicky and grateful in the open sea. Hvar, the longest of the Dalmatian islands, is halfway between Venice and Corfu and was of great strategic importance to the Venetians. After seeing off the Turks in 1570, the Venetians imposed their distinctive architectural stamp on the main town of Hvar even more decisively. The immense, paved square leading from the tiny 15th-century mandrac (harbour) to the cathedral and the imposing arsenal form the most quintessentially Venetian ensemble in Dalmatia.

A stone's throw from the piazza, among the climbing, pot-plant festooned alleys, I found a particularly irritable-looking Venetian lion, the carving as sophisticated as anything in Venice.

Hvar has already become

stylish in a quiet, understated way. It is possible to get a dose or two of "Una Paloma Blanca" from the small combos, which strum away at the jazzier cafes along the quay, but sitting beneath the oleaners on the terrace of the Renaissance loggia it was not difficult to think oneself into the serene frame of mind of the pre-package tourist.

Yugoslavia is yet unruined by the brash paraphernalia of mass tourism.

Awaiting my *schnitzel-a-la-Serbia* in Korčula's main square, I wondered why this famous town hadn't grabbed me like Hvar. From the sea it had looked spectacular: a perfect, conical skyline. But inside the walls the feeling is rather precious and there's very little to explore. The tiny peninsula on which Korčula stands is only 550 yards long and less than half that wide. One main street straddles it.

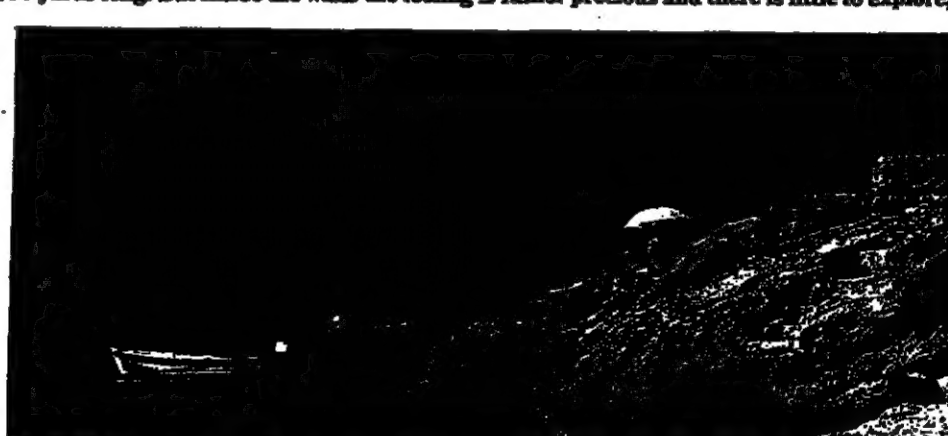
The most interesting part is the rather theatrical piazza, the Trg Marsala Tita, from which steps ascend towards the Cathedral of St Mark. My guidebook called it an "attractive hybrid"; I thought it a fussy mess with its heavily sculpted cornice and extravagant portal. I skipped Maroo Polo's supposed birthplace.

Dubrovnik, as the ancient Republic of Ragusa, dominated the southern part of Dalmatia, much as Venice did the rest of it until, like Venice, it was taken over by the Austrians. Both its setting and architecture are fabulous.

After an earthquake in 1667 the town was reconstructed so accurately that what we see today is pretty authentic. The marble-paved Piazza, the extraordinary main street which traverses the town, must be the most beautiful in Europe. Symmetrical terraces of Pompeii-style shopfronts climax in yet another wonderful piazza.

From the town's ramparts — massive and complete — you can look out over the pantiled roofs to Lokrum island, Dubrovnik's beach resort. Unlike Venice, Ragusa produced no great native artists so its churches are full of Venetian work.

In the sacristy of the cathedral I couldn't locate the Pordenone head of Christ. At a small chamber concert held in the museum, my mind wandered. I glanced up and there it was. As I sat there I concluded that my well-travelled friends have been keeping quiet about Dubrovnik.

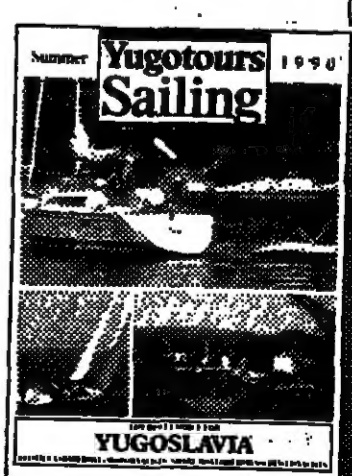
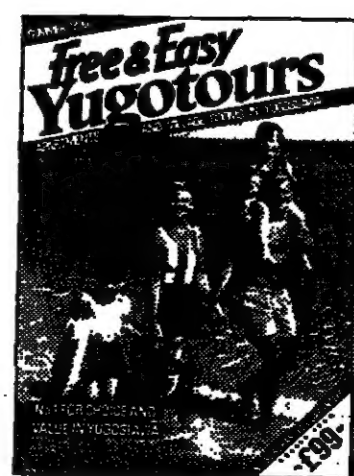
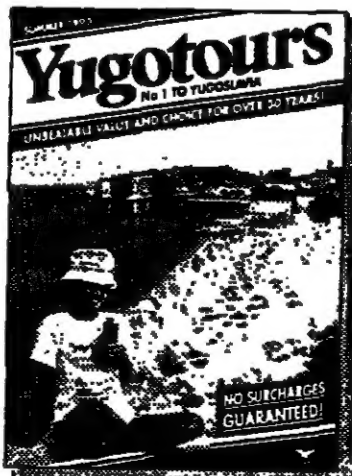


Picnic idyll: grilled, newly caught sardines, fresh, crisp bread and wine on Brač's rocky shore

TRAVEL NOTES

- Yugoslav National Tourist Office, 143 Regent Street, London W1R 8AE (01-734 6243).
- Halsey Marine, 22 Boston Place, Dorset Square, London NW1 8HZ (01-724 1303), offers a range of fully crewed boats. Andrew Gibbon Williams cruised in a catboat-type boat, sleeping eight-10, hired at £1,200 a week (breakfast and lunch included).
- Yugotours (01-439 7233) offers scheduled return flights to Split from £155 (after March 24).

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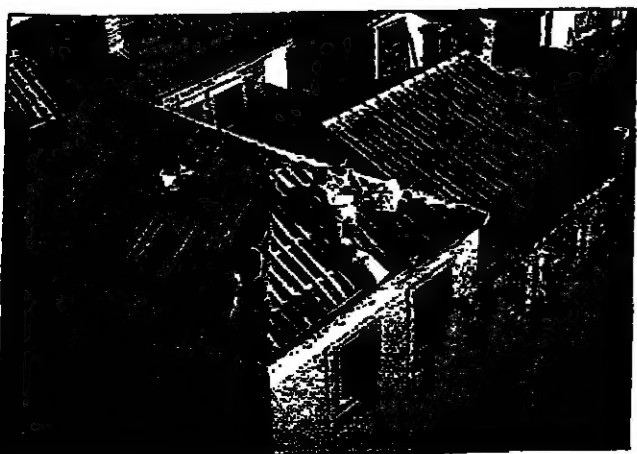
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